PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

Questions are printed in numerical order

An index to questions appears at the end of Part II

FROM 21 SEPTEMBER 1977

1 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Will he supply a breakdown of the Territory unemployment figures based on age groupings for the following classifications:

(a) sex;

(b) educational background;

(c) racial origin;

(d) marital status;

(e) number of dependants; and

(f) type of job sought (skilled, semi-skilled, unskilled)?

2 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

1. What estimated expenditures in the Allocation of Funds (Supply) Ordinances 1977/78 were varied?

2. On what days were they varied?

3. Who authorised the variations?

3 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

1. Is the Arafura Men's Hostel to be closed?

If so -

(a) when;

(b) what use will be made of the land and existing buildings?

4 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

1. Were those prisoners in Fannie Bay Gaol who were entitled to vote in the Legislative Assembly elections allowed to do so?

2. Was a request made on polling day to the Cabinet Member for Law to authorise travel of prisoners to a polling booth to enable them to vote?

3. If such a request was made, was it refused?

5 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

1. How much of the $20,000 for the Primary Producers Board mentioned on page 18 of "Explanations to the Allocation of Funds (Supply) Ordinance 1977/78" has been spent?

2. How many meetings of the Primary Producers Board have been held since June 30, 1977?

3. How much has been paid to the Chairman of the Primary Producers Board in -

(a) fees;

(b) allowances; and

(c) travel and subsistence

since June 30, 1977?

4. How much has been paid to each of the members (other than the Chairman) of the Primary Producers Board in -

(a) fees;

(b) allowances; and

(c) travel and subsistence

since June 30, 1977?

5. How many meetings of the Primary Producers Board were held in the 1976/77 financial year?

6. How much was paid to the Chairman of the Primary Producers Board in the 1976/77 financial year for -

(a) fees;

(b) allowances; and

(c) travel and subsistence?

7. How much was paid to each of the members (other than the Chairman) of the Primary Producers Board in the 1976/77 financial year for -

(a) fees;

(b) allowances; and

(c) travel and subsistence?

6 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

I refer to the Chief Secretary's announcement yesterday of Mr Creed Lovegrove's appointment. Is the Chief Secretary establishing a precedent of advising this Assembly of senior appointments during adjournment debates? Will he follow the convention and in future seek leave to make a statement concerning such appointments?

ANSWER

I do not consider that I was in any way setting a precedent. I was simply making an announcement which I understand has already been made by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in Canberra.

7 Mr VALE to Mr ROBERTSON

Is he aware of a reported statement by the Teachers Federation that they will not staff schools in uranium towns and what is the Cabinet Member's policy towards this?

ANSWER

My policy and certainly that of the Majority Party would be to provide the best education to all children of the Northern Territory regardless of where they may be. That policy will stand and will be enforced to the best of our ability. I must express some disappointment in the Teachers Federation's announcement. I would hasten to assure honourable members that my information is that it in no way reflects the views of the teachers at large in the Northern Territory. I believe that they can rightly claim to be called professional; they are trained as professional people and I believe that the majority of teachers in this Territory will behave in that professional manner. I think that perhaps the reasoning behind the Teachers Federation's decision stems more from a lack of understanding of the nature of mining uranium in that province. I can assure this House and I can assure the Teachers Federation ...

Mr ISAACS: A point of order, Mr Speaker! I would ask the manager of government business to answer the question. He is certainly dwelling at length. If he wishes to make a statement later on, he can seek leave and the Opposition will allow him to make a statement.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr ROBERTSON: Thank you, Mr Speaker, I will continue with my policy as asked, It is my policy, and again that of the Majority Party, to ensure that the safety of all workers in that area is maintained. Certainly where school children are involved our concern would be even greater. The Teachers Federation may leave the governing of this Northern Territory to the future Northern Territory government and I would suggest as to the governing of this country, to the government of the country.

8 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can he advise as to when the trustees of the Cyclone Tracy Relief Trust Fund last met and when it is expected they will meet again?

ANSWER

Without referring to notes, I think the date when the trustees last met was sometime in July. I spoke to the Minister for the Northern Territory

yesterday whilst he was here - as honourable members would know, Mr Speaker, he is the chairman of the trustees. I asked him whether it would be in order, as he was not able to call a meeting together himself, for the Mayor of Darwin, Dr Lila Stack, to convene the next meeting which is to be held at 4.30 pm next Tuesday.

9 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr EVERINGHAM

What was the total cost of rearrangement of members' fixed desks and the resultant electrical work necessary in this Chamber?

ANSWER

I do not have that information. I ask her to put the question on notice.

Mr SPEAKER: I have the information which the Majority Leader does not have. It was less than $600.

10 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

Can he advise where and when the next Rural Roads Conference will be held?

ANSWER

No.

11 Mr DONDAS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Does he propose to continue as the Assembly representative on the Darwin Cyclone Relief Trust Fund?

ANSWER

Yes.

12 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Is he satisfied that there is sufficient staff in the Commercial and Industrial Affairs Branch of the Department of Northern Territory to conduct regular inspection of machinery operating on building sites and in factories in the Northern Territory? Has he seen a report by a machinery inspector concerning the crane collapse on the AMP building site in Cavenagh Street Darwin last week? Will he table that report?

ANSWER

I cannot be satisfied that there is adequate staff in the CIA because I have not as yet accepted that function from the federal government and I have not looked at their staffing arrangements. When a report does come forward relating to safety conditions surrounding the crane failure in recent days, I will certainly table that report.

13 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

Is it a fact that the Northern Territory Public Library Service has over 50,000 new books in stock which cannot be made available to the public because low staff ceilings prevent their being catalogued?

ANSWER

Dealing with the second part of the question first, I am not aware precisely of the staffing arrangements. I am aware that there is a serious problem within the library services. I have already had discussion with officers of my department in relation to it and I have expressed to them my deep concern that these books remain uncatalogued and unavailable to the people of the Northern Territory. In the previous Legislative Assembly, the previous Executive Member with responsibility in this area also expressed concern. Large expenditure is now proposed on library services in the Casuarina region and I would assume that every effort will be made by the department, and certainly by me, to ensure that these books are brought on stream to the public.

14 Mr VALE to Mr TUXWORTH

Will he personally review the current shortage of dentists in Alice Springs and the present low staff ceilings with a view to relieving the present two-year wait for dental treatment?

ANSWER

I am not in a position to review the dental position in Alice Springs but I am certainly in a position to familiarise myself with the present staffing position in the dental laboratories and units in Alice Springs, and I will do that and report back to the House on the next sitting day.

15 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

He will not be pleased to know he still carries responsibility for answering questions regarding Carpentaria College. Could he advise as to the present position of negotiations between the Commonwealth government and the Anglican Church as to the future of this college which is rapidly deteriorating?

ANSWER

I am just trying to clarify in my mind where this matter does reflect upon my responsibilities at the present time. I guess the honourable member is thinking of finances. I do not believe, Mr Speaker, that the state of the Carpentaria College or the land and the zone that exists out there at Nightcliff really has much of a bearing on town planning matters as such. Perhaps, if the honourable member places the question on notice, we can endeavour to have an answer for her question and clearly establish in which direction it should be made.

16 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr PERRON

Considering the importance of his position and how it affects the lives of us who live permanently in the Northern Territory, has the Assistant Secretary for Urban Development and Town Planning returned yet to live permanently in Darwin since the cyclone and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

The gentleman referred to in the honourable member's question has not returned to Darwin. I will seek the further information she asks as to "why not". I do not have the answer at all - I do know that he is not back in Darwin - but I will advise the honourable member further during these sittings.

17 Mr COLLINS to Mr ROBERTSON

What action has been taken to improve the safety of the crossing across Gilruth Avenue to Darwin High School subsequent to the death of a child there earlier this year?

ANSWER

I understand that arrangements are being made through the Corporation of the City of Darwin for the construction of an overpass. I also understand that approximately $80,000 has been allocated to provide this overpass. I will follow up the matter and give a more detailed answer privately to the honourable member.

18 Mr OLIVER to Mr STEELE

Is it a fact that the foot bridge over the Todd River is to be demolished and, if so, could representation be made to the appropriate department for a statement?

ANSWER

I will get some information and give it to the honourable member later in the day.

19 Mr HARRIS to Mr ROBERTSON

Is it a fact that children from the northern suburbs are being given preference of entry to the Larrakeyah Pre-school over children who live in the Larrakeyah area?

ANSWER

I do not have direct responsibility for education matters but rather a liaison role. Any information that I give is provided to me by the department. I have been advised that it is not the policy of the Education Department to zone in respect of schools. People from other areas are eligible to attend those pre-schools. The impression that northern suburbs children are given preference at that particular pre-school probably stems from the fact that there is a group of creches in the area and the children transfer from those in the morning to the pre-school in the afternoon. There is no definite policy of preference.

20 Mr DOOLAN to Mr EVERINGHAM

Has he seen the report of the Joint Select Committee on Aboriginal Land Rights in the Northern Territory? Does he agree that the report is highly critical of the complementary legislation introduced into the last Assembly? Will he give an undertaking that any future complementary legislation to the Aboriginal Land Rights NT Act 1976 will implement the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee's Report?

ANSWER

I would query that question being in order as it asks me for an expression of opinion.

Mr SPEAKER: The point of order is upheld. Would you like to phrase your question in a different way because you cannot ask for a matter of opinion.

Mr DOOLAN: I would like to ask permission to see the Clerk to re-phrase the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Would you repeat your question.

Mr DOOLAN: Has he seen the report of the Joint Select Committee on Aboriginal Land Rights in the Northern Territory? Does he agree that the report is highly critical of the complementary legislation introduced into the last Assembly? Will he give an undertaking that any future complementary legislation to the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory)Act 1976 will implement the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee's Report?

Mr SPEAKER: The second question is a matter of opinion but the other two seem to be straight forward.

Mr EVERINGHAM: Could the questions be asked one at a time?

Mr DOOLAN: I am quite happy to put the question on notice.

21 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr TUXWORTH

Will the Darwin Dental Clinic be replacing the orthodontist who recently resigned and, if so, when? Will the service be extended as promised to Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

I was advised some 2 to 3 weeks ago by the Department of Health that they were experiencing a great deal of difficulty in recruiting dentists and orthodontists to the Northern Territory. In fact, the squeeze has become so critical that they have now started advertising in Great Britain and America for orthodontists to come to work in the Northern Territory. The difficulty is not a financial one nor a question of positions available in the department but purely one of man power. The department has pointed out that orthodontists are generally very well paid in private enterprise and have no real desire to enter the public service. The department has agreed to keep me briefed on the filling of these positions and it will be doing everything it can to extend existing services to the other centres in the Territory by seconding staff from other areas.

22 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is he aware of the news report attributed to the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service this morning that there has been a marked increase in complaints by Aboriginals concerning police bashing in the Alice Springs area and that a call has been made for the establishment of an independent tribunal to investigate complaints against the police? Will the Majority Party consider seriously the establishment of independent procedures in the Northern Territory to investigate such complaints in accordance with the recommendations of the Australian Law Reform Commission in 1975? Does the Majority Party endorse the statements attributed this morning to the Acting Superintendent of Police at Alice Springs?

ANSWER

I have heard the radio news report but that is about all I have heard on the subject. I intend asking my officer, the Commissioner of Police, for a report on the position. At that stage I think I could perhaps provide

the honourable Leader of the Opposition with more information. I have not seen the recommendation of the Law Reform Commission to which he refers. If perhaps he could provide me with the document I would be most interested to read it.

23 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TUXWORTH

This is going to sound involved but really it is quite simple. Is he aware that when patients approach the Darwin Hospital and have to be admitted as in-patients, they are not being advised of their right to choose a private doctor to treat them? Is he aware that this is contrary to the rules of the hospital, and what action will he take to ensure that the rules are properly followed?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the case outlined by the honourable member for Nightcliff. However, I will endeavour to familiarise myself today with the present position and report back to the honourable member tomorrow.

24 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

Has consideration been given by Australia Post to the installation of mail receivers in the Darwin rural area, as it is very inconvenient and annoying for people living at Howard Springs or Humpty Doo to be obliged to travel all the way into Berrimah to post a letter?

ANSWER

Australia Post is also a liaison responsibility. I have not yet established communications with the Australia Post people. As soon as I do, I will be able to provide the honourable member with some information.

25 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

Will he make representation to the federal Transport Minister Mr Nixon to have more rail cattle trucks made available on the Alice Springs to Adelaide rail line?

ANSWER

It is pretty important that this proposition does get taken on board with the immense glut of cattle in the Northern Territory as a whole and I will certainly make some representations.

26 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr STEELE

Is it his intention early in the life of this Assembly to introduce legislation to enable certificates of roadworthiness for motor vehicles to be issued, specifically for second-hand vehicles, or any other form of control of the sale of second-hand cars which may not be roadworthy?

ANSWER

The Majority Party has not yet firmed up its policy in this area. We would certainly have a proposition to put before the honourable members at a later stage.

27 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr STEELE

What steps have been taken to reintroduce the sealing of Yirrkala Road onto the civil works program for next year?

ANSWER

There are many roads in the Northern Territory and the priorities have been set by people other than myself. If on inspection of the roads system in the Northern Territory and on advice from people in these areas, I can see that there is a need to re-arrange priorities, based on the requirements of members like the member for Nhulunbuy, I would be happy to do that.

28 Mr DONDAS to Mr ROBERTSON

Despite the recent assurances from the Darwin City Council that the Leanyar dump fires and odours are not a nuisance to Casuarina and Sanderson residents, the experience over the last few weeks has proved this not to be true. Would the Cabinet Member undertake to take the appropriate action to reduce this nuisance?

ANSWER

That, of course, is technically a matter purely for the local government; it is for the corporation. I understand that the council itself indeed was not happy with the smell and smoke that was emanating from that particular dump. In fact, it was my understanding they were so dissatisfied that, I believe, they have sacked the present contractor and have called tenders for a new one. I understand that those tenders will close in about 3 weeks.

29 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr PERRON

What consideration has been given to the subject of bulk water rates to market gardeners and others whose livelihood depends on growing plants?

ANSWER

I have a query in with the Department of Northern Territory on this particular matter at the moment and I am obtaining their views on what research they have done, concerning bulk supply of water to market gardeners and the like in the vicinity of Darwin. This is another one of the subjects which will be reviewed in a review of revenue potentiality for the Northern Territory which was alluded to by myself and the Majority Leader yesterday. The whole area of tariffs will have to be looked at with a view to restructuring, if and where it is felt necessary, after such a complete review of the Territory's financial resources is undertaken and completed.

30 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

How much longer will residents of Fannie Bay be inconvenienced by excavation relating to sewerage works in the area?

ANSWER

The only answer I would have is until such time as the contract is completed.

31 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it true that Pancontinental Mining Company have begun bulldozing in the Jabiluka area? If it is true, who gave permission for this to begin? Has Pancontinental completed an environmental impact statement and, if so, has the statement been subjected to a public inquiry?

ANSWER

I cannot answer the first part of the question. However, I will endeavour to find out and answer the honourable member at a later hour. I would ask that the second part of the question be placed on notice because I would prefer to provide the honourable member with a detailed reply.

32 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

What action has he taken to ensure that a walkover is constructed at Trower Road near the Rapid Creek shopping centre to ensure that residents in the Millner electorate can cross the newly widened road in safety?

ANSWER

I have received representations about this matter in recent days. I was unaware that it was a real problem until recently. I have since made representations to the Department of Northern Territory to see if they can come up with some rearrangement of their funds which might facilitate the construction of this particular overpass.

36 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

Is he aware that Noogoora Burr was found on horses last week on the Barkly Tablelands? Can he advise what the danger of Noogoora Burr being introduced in the Northern Territory is and are any amendments proposed to existing legislation to allow for more stringent controls?

ANSWER

Noogoora Burr is one of Australia's worst weed pests and I remember it well from the Barkly back in the early 1950s. It is known to exist in the Territory although at this stage the infestations are scattered and rather small. The weed has been declared a class B noxious weed under the Noxious Weeds Ordinance which means that its spread is to be controlled. I understand that, under existing provisions of the ordinance, there are no specific powers to prevent the movement into the Territory of stock infested with declared weeds. I believe that stock inspectors employed by the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch of the Department of the Northern Territory generally are well aware of the dangers posed by the chance introduction of such weed pests and, with the cooperation of stock owners, they do attempt to ensure that such stock are clean when entering the Northern Territory, particularly when moved from areas of known infestation. In the recent case mentioned by the honourable member, the manes and tails of horses found to be carrying the burr were clipped before further movement proceeded. The ordinance is currently being reviewed by the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch to suggest amendments that will strengthen and add to its provisions. The honourable member will be pleased to know that one aspect under consideration relates specifically to the matter he has raised.

37 Mr HARRIS to Mr TUXWORTH

In the light of the spreading cholera epidemics in the near East and the incidence of the disease in the South-east Asian countries, what consideration is being given by the government to the possible health risks associated with the steadily increasing frequency of refugees from South-east Asia arriving in Australia in small fishing boats?

ANSWER

I would advise the House that I had forewarning of this question because it involves the activities of a federal department. The answer I have received is that a special watch is being kept for people in small boats who might be refugees from Vietnam or other South-east Asian countries. Reported landings by crews of foreign fishing vessels and the arrival of several parties of refugees had caused concern about all aspects of quarantine, both human, plant and animal. The implications of the landings had been considered by the Standing Committee on Australian Coastal Surveillance which co-ordinates off-shore activities. Quarantine authorities in Western Australia and the Northern Territory are directly participating in the program together with appropriate state officials. The new surveillance program together with plans for prompt follow-up action where necessary will provide adequate quarantine protection in the north and north-west as far as currently known risks are concerned.

38 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

In this year's federal budget, funds were allocated for reticulation of both water and sewerage at Yuendumu. Will he approach the Department of

Construction with a request that both of these projects be carried out at the same time so that disruption to the Yuendumu community will be kept to a minimum?

ANSWER

Yes.

39 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

In view of the censure motion of which I gave notice today, does he intend to follow accepted practice and call the censure motion on immediately after question time today, especially in view of the fact that we are not anticipating a further meeting until November?

ANSWER

I wish to examine the motion and I do not intend to call it on after question time today.

40 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

My question follows a statement he made in his adjournment speech last night relating to the Cyclone Tracy Relief Trust Fund. He indicated that Mr Barker QC is giving an opinion to the trustees. On what section of the operation of the Trust Fund has his opinion been sought and how is he being paid?

ANSWER

The matter is too complex for me to give an answer here. I ask that the question be placed on notice.

41 Mr OLIVER to Mr STEELE

Should an apprentice training in the Northern Territory be obliged to move to another state for family reasons or whatever, is it possible for him to continue training under the Northern Territory Apprentices Board without disruption to his training?

ANSWER

There is no provisions for apprentices to transfer from the Northern Territory to interstate apprenticeships. They have to re-establish a new connection interstate.

42 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr PERRON

Is it a fact that tenants of houses in the suburbs of Anula and Wulagi are not permitted by the Department of Northern Territory to erect fences where none exist, even at their own expense? And if the answer to that question is yes, can he state the reasons for this policy?

ANSWER

I do not have specific information to answer the honourable member's question. However, I will undertake to obtain that information from the Department of Northern Territory and provide it to her separately from these sittings.

43 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

Can he advise if the Australian National Railways and the federal government have yet reached a decision concerning the location of the rail complex in Alice Springs? If a decision has not yet been made, will he undertake to arrange public hearings in Alice Springs so that the wishes of residents, community organisations and industries are made known?

ANSWER

On the first part of the question, I am not so aware. On the second part, I will do my best.

44 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

Is it true that the government is hiring tools and equipment for work on the No. 4 generator at the Stokes Hill Power Station due to cuts in capital expenditure? Is this resulting in more cost than if the tools were purchased?

ANSWER

I ask him to place that question on notice.

45 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr PERRON

In view of the more and more concentrated use of land in city areas and having regard to the most economical use of public utilities, has consideration been given to the setting up of a crematorium in Darwin and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

That question should be redirected to the Executive Member for Community and Social Development or placed on notice.

46 Mr VALE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can he advise if new cars are on order for the traffic section of the Northern Territory Police and, if so, how many are on order? Of these, how many are intended for Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine?

ANSWER

I ask him to place this question on notice.

47 Mr ISAACS to Mr SPEAKER

Can you estimate how much it would have cost to have included in Hansard the copy of "Uranium - Australia's Decision"?

ANSWER

The estimate given to me by the Acting Clerk is approximately $4,000.

48 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr STEELE

What was the cost of the Ludmilla overpass and what would its estimated cost be, if built today?

ANSWER

The approximate cost of the Ludmilla walk-across was around $50,000 and the figures that I have for any future overpasses of that nature would be around $110,000. If you will just bear with me, just looking at the needs for overpasses and the fact that we had one question from the Leader of the Opposition yesterday, we are very concerned about overpasses and their construction and we are looking at all aspects of our own budget and the Commonwealth budget to see if we can extract funds out of those budgets to permit the further constructions of overpasses.

49 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr STEELE

Has a departmental inquiry into airline scheduling operations commenced? If so, will the inquiry extend to the Northern Territory services and will the public be invited to submit their ideas?

ANSWER

The domestic airline policy inquiry will extend to the Northern Territory services, down to the commuters. The general public have been invited to make submissions. This followed the announcement by the Minister for Transport in the federal parliament. Also my department will be making a submission in this aspect. On the recent interstate airfare changes: no, there has been no attempt to look at the airfares from here. Submissions closed on 19 August but if the honourable member wants to provide another submission, we would be happy to try and see if it could be included.

50 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr PERRON

Can he say how many applications have been lodged to date for the purchase of houses, constructed pursuant to tenders let by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission?

ANSWER

I cannot provide the answer to that question. I suggest that she place the question on notice.

51 Mr VALE to Mr EVERINGHAM

During the last Assembly sittings I was advised that winter uniforms were on order for officers attached to the traffic section in Alice Springs. Can the Majority Leader advise details of the uniforms and if all officers from the traffic section will receive the uniforms or just those on motor bikes?

ANSWER

I do not have that information readily to hand and I ask him to place the question on notice.

52 Mr DOOLAN to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is he aware that many members of the Northern Territory police, particularly in country areas, habitually refer to people of Aboriginal extraction as "coons"? Does he know that Aboriginals consider this word to be particularly offensive, and will he ask the Commissioner of Police to instruct members of the police force to refrain forthwith from using this derogatory term?

ANSWER

I would take a point of order on this question, pursuant to standing order 92. Once again I am asked for an expression of opinion.

Mr SPEAKER: Which part of the question do you object to?

Mr EVERINGHAM: Mr Speaker, I have not got it noted down but I am certain at one stage the honourable member for Victoria River did ask me to express an opinion. Could he perhaps repeat his question or could I be given a copy of it?

Mr DOOLAN: The questions were firstly, is he aware that many members of the Northern Territory police, particularly in country areas,habitually refer to people of Aboriginal extraction as "coons"? Does he know that Aboriginals consider this word to be particularly offensive?

Mr EVERINGHAM: There is the opinion, Mr Speaker.

Mr DOOLAN: Do you "know"? Thirdly, will he ask the Commissioner of Police to instruct members of the police force to refrain forthwith from using this derogatory term?

Mr SPEAKER: I do not think there is a point of order there, but if you do not wish to answer the question, that is your right.

Mr EVERINGHAM: In answer to the first question, I am not aware that police officers in the Northern Territory do refer to Aboriginal persons as "coons". I certainly have never heard of it.

53 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

The federal government last night announced plans to assist the Australian cattle industry. Can the honourable member advise details of the scheme and how it will assist the Northern Territory cattleman?

ANSWER

At a quarter past 10 last night I received a telex about 4 foot long and it would take me about all day to go through it. But having studied it for about half an hour or so, the time I had available to me, I have prepared a press release - plus having the advantage of some knowledge of the industry prior to coming into this position. With your graces, Mr Speaker, I will read this press release out; it is a short one.

> *The Cabinet Member for Industry, Mr Roger Steele, said today he was prepared to make special submissions to the federal government to increase the benefits to Territory beef producers from the new rural relief measures announced yesterday. Mr Steele said the subsidies would be of most benefit to smaller ...*

Mr ISAACS: A point of order, Mr Speaker! The Executive Member can answer the question asked by the honourable member for Stuart but if he wishes to make a statement, as he clearly does, surely he can make that statement at the end of question time, rather than take up time during question time.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order. I gave the honourable member permission to read the press release.

Mr Steele said the subsidies would be of most benefit to smaller producers in the eastern states but would provide little help to Territory producers. (I want to emphasise the "little".)

The government had promised to examine the needs of producers living in isolated areas such as the Northern Territory and this would enable more assistance to be given to Territory cattlemen. Mr Steele said he would support submissions through the NT Primary Producers Board on behalf of any producer who believed he was entitled to additional assistance under the new schemes. He believed that additional relief could be provided by easing the burden of such local impositions as pastoral lease rents and covenant positions. The Cabinet Member said applications by producers in dire financial difficulties would be handled quickly by the Primary Producers Board. If more funds were needed, he would seek a further allocation urgently.

54 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

As he now has responsibility for police and this is one of the questions I asked the former Executive Member at every sittings - is it his intention that police shall resume the practice of being identified either by name or number on their uniforms?

ANSWER

It is not my intention that the police should be directed to wear numbers.

55 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

When does he anticipate that the Northern Territory will have a differential cost of living index?

ANSWER

I am not in a position to answer that question I would ask that it be put on notice.

56 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr STEELE

Can he advise me what is the next step to ensure that remote localities will continue to have a regular air service, in the event of Connair limiting or ceasing their services?

ANSWER

A day has not gone by without some sort of discussion or press activity concerning Connair. Almost daily I have been talking to different people about Connair. The head of my department, Mr John Cameron, has been chairman and attended both of the meetings between Eddie Connellan and the consumers in the northern areas. In addition to that, the Majority Leader and myself have discussed the matter with Peter Nixon in Canberra last Thursday. I understand that a submission is to be made - I do not know whether it is to increase the subsidy or not, at this stage, but there is a submission coming forward that might satisfy Mr Connellan and the consumers.

What I would like to do at this stage is to disclose to the House that I have a personal interest in the Connair company. This probably happened about 30 years ago, my father-in-law - I am sorry for making a statement about this, but I think it is fairly important that I include it now in my answer to the honourable member - about 30 years ago, my father-in-law bought some shares in Connellan's airline company for his two daughters. Of course, I only married one of them, so I only got half the shares. But I thought a disclosure should be made; although it is a very insignificant interest, I would not like to think that people would take it the wrong way.

57 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Will he inform the House when the Majority Party proposes to introduce complementary legislation on Aboriginal Land Rights and also what is the timetable proposed, and will the recommendations of the Bonner Committee on Aboriginal Land Rights in the Northern Territory be accepted and incorporated into the complementary legislation?

ANSWER

I think I might have given this information to the House before. But in any event, I will repeat it for the benefit of the honourable member for MacDonnell whose question was, when would the complementary legislation be introduced into this House? Obviously, I cannot give a firm date but it will be at the earliest convenient opportunity. The second part of the question was, I think, whether the recommendations of the Bonner Committee would be accepted by the Majority Party. I have indicated to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the two Land Councils that the Majority Party accepts in principle the recommendations of the Bonner Report. I think that answers his question.

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PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

Questions are printed in numerical order

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FROM 22 NOVEMBER 1977

58 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

With reference to the legal opinion being prepared for the Trustees of the Darwin Cyclone Tracy Relief Trust Fund by Mr Ian Barker, Q.C.

What were the instructions given to Mr Barker by the Trustees, and

from what source is Mr Barker to be paid for this opinion and under what authority?

64 Mr VALE to Mr EVERINGHAM

In respect of each of the following organizations -

(1) Central Australian Aboriginal Medical Service;

(2) Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service;

(3) Central Australian Aborigines Congress; and

(4) Aboriginal Hostels Ltd, Alice Springs -

(a) what numbers of persons are employed;

(b) what are the designations, remuneration received and other employment benefits of employees;

(c) who is responsible for the hiring and firing of employees;

(d) are the organizations' financial records and expenditure subject to audit and, if so, what are the details of such requirements; and

(e) are vehicle records and logbooks kept?

65 Mr VALE to Mr EVERINGHAM

What is the generating capacity of electricity generators at the Daly River Mission?

What is the peak or maximum demand for electricity at the Daly River Mission?

If the generating capacity is in excess of demand, what modifications, if any, have the generating units had?

FROM 29 NOVEMBER 1977

67 Mr PERKINS to Mr ROBERTSON

Is he aware that the erection of a demountable primary school building for the Haasts Bluff community has not taken place as proposed for September of this year in the Commonwealth Government's New Works Program for 1977-78?

If so, will he advise when the erection of the primary school building is to commence and when it will be ready for use?

68 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Has the Majority Party considered the effect on the validity of Northern Territory legislation of Australia's ratification of international treaties and covenants dealing with economic, political and social rights?

Given the undoubted power of the Commonwealth to legislate in the N.T., has the Majority Leader received advice that there is a difference in substance between the Commonwealth's power to legislate in the N.T. (and in the A.C.T.) to put into effect its treaty commitments, and its power under the external affairs power of the Commonwealth Constitution to enforce such legislation on the States?

If so, has the Majority Leader requested a study of N.T. legislation to see whether there is any conflict between N.T. ordinances and international covenants ratified by Australia? In particular, has he requested an examination of whether the present N.T. Social Welfare Ordinance stands up to international covenants pertaining to racial discrimination and whether existing prison facilities in the N.T. meet the standards laid down in international covenants and treaties?

70 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Is he aware that the Apprentices Ordinance 1948 does not comply with the requirements of International Labor Organization Covention No. 65 - Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers) 1939?

Will he advise when the Ordinance will be amended to comply with the requirements?

71 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

How much was paid to each member of the Assembly by way of travelling allowances in the 1976-77 financial year?

90 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

Is it a fact that the Beatrice Hill Research Experimental Station is to be handed over from the Department of the Northern Territory to Professor Harry Messel of Sydney University to house him and/or his academic staff whilst they are carrying out their radio experiments on our crocodiles?

What is going to happen to the present D.O.N.T. staff working and housed there, to all the facilities, laboratories, workshops, equipment and livestock, and to the vital research work on animal and pasture production that has been conducted in this area for a number of years?

How much money has been allocated or will be allocated by the Government to Professor Harry Messel, and how much to animal and pasture research in this area?

Who is going to benefit from this research of Professor Harry Messel, the Northern Territory people, the Sydney University or the United States interests that are partially financing this research?

Who decided that crocodile research is more important to the Northern Territory than farming research that is aimed at assisting the farmers and cattlemen in the Top End?

91 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr STEELE

Does he intend to introduce legislation to control the use of antibiotics in stock feeds, and if so, when?

92 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

1. Why is the notice in Gazette No. 46, 18 November 1977, appointing the Territory Parks & Wildlife Advisory Council over the signature of the Administrator, and not the executive member as required in the Territory Parks & Wildlife Conservation Ordinance?

2. What are the qualifications of each of the members of the Council with respect to Section 80(8) of the Territory Parks & Wildlife Conservation Ordinance?

3. Who were the unsuccessful candidates to the Advisory Council and what were their qualifications with respect to Section 80(3).

95 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr PERRON

How many times has the Darwin Citizens' Council met?

How many times did each Member of the Darwin Citizens' Council attend those meetings?

96 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr PERRON

How many times has the Darwin Reconstruction Commission met?

How many times did each Member or their Delegate attend those meetings?

6 DECEMBER 1977

132 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

1. What were the staffing levels, section by section, for each six months, or at least yearly, in the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch since 1972?

2. How many professional and technical staff are in the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch, and how many, on average, are there in similar branches in each of the States?

3. How many professional conferences do professional staff of the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch attend each year compared to their counterparts in each State, and why are they so few?

150 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

1. What is the membership of the Tender Board?

2. Who chooses the members?

3. Who decides the duration of membership?

4. Does a position on the Tender Board attract a cash emolument?

5. What criteria are used in appointing members of the Tender Board?

6. Are reasons for accepting a particular tender made public and if not, why not?

7. Has an unsuccessful tenderer any way of airing what he may feel is a definite grievance against the decision of the Tender Board?

151 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is it a fact that Aboriginals living in humpies in the NT will be required to pay $2.00 a fortnight for garbage collection and maintenance of parks and gardens as from January, 1978?

Is it a fact that Aboriginals living in Stage 1 houses will be required to pay $5.00 a fortnight for such services under proposed new scales?

Is it a fact that Aboriginals living in Stage 3 houses will be required to pay $35.00 a fortnight for rent as compared with $13.00 a fortnight as from January next year?

152 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Will he advise when the Commonwealth Government proposes to transfer power to the NT Legislative Assembly to legislate completely on electoral matters in the Territory?

Will he advise when the Assembly Executive is likely to introduce legislation on electoral matters in the NT?

Will he advise whether the recommendations of the Chairman of the NT Country Liberal Party following the recent Legislative Assembly election on August 13 will be incorporated in such legislation?

153 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is it a fact that the Alice Springs Criminal Investigation Bureau maintains secret files on the activities of local prominent citizens?

If so, why and under whose instructions?

154 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

Is he aware of the shocking conditions of the corrugated road to Uluru National Park and of the reported claim that more than 2,000 vehicles have been repaired in the National Park in the first 9 months of this year and that nearly 300 cars and coaches had been repaired at Curtin Springs in the same period?

If so, will he advise what action his Department proposes to take to improve road conditions to Uluru National Park?

179 Mr DOOLAN to Mr PERRON

Have tenders been called for a new workshop and stores complex at the Stokes Hill Power Station?

If so, to what stage has work proceeded?

If tenders have not been called, why not?

180 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

1. Has a timetable for the complete undergrounding of cables of the electricity distribution system been established?

2. If so, what is it?

3. Has the Majority Party a policy that all cables must be underground?

1 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Will he supply a breakdown of the Territory unemployment figures based on age groupings for the following classifications:

(a) sex;

(b) educational background;

(c) racial origin;

(d) marital status;

(e) number of dependants; and

(f) type of job sought (skilled, semi-skilled, unskilled)?

ANSWER

There are 4,002 persons registered as unemployed in the Northern Territory as at the end of August grouped in the following classifications:

(a) Sex

3069 Males 939 Females

(b) Education Background

There are no statistics recorded on Educational Background.

(c) Racial Origin

Unemployed persons are grouped into only two race categories which are Aboriginal persons (including Torres Strait Islanders) and Others.

Aboriginals 1311 Others 2691

(d) Marital Status

There are no statistics recorded on the Marital Status of male registrants. However, figures are available in the case of women.

Married 182 Unmarried 757

(e) Number of Dependants

Details of unemployed persons with dependants are statistically recorded at the end of April, July and October. From a total of 3944 unemployed persons in July there were 675 with dependants consisting of 595 males and 80 females.

(f) Type of Job Sought (skilled, semi-skilled, unskilled)

	Males	Females	Total
Rural	400	1	401
Professional	36	33	69
Clerical	89	453	542
Skilled	323	1	324
Semi-Skilled	790	22	812
Unskilled	1298	9	1307
Service Occupations	127	420	547
TOTALS	3063	939	4002

2 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

1. What estimated expenditures in the Allocation of Funds (Supply) Ordinances 1977-78 were varied?

2. On what days were they varied?

3. Who authorised the variation?

ANSWER

The following information is supplied in answer to the Hon. Member's question -

Estimated expenditures in the Allocation of Funds (Supply) Ordinances 1977-78 have not been varied.

3 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

1. Is the Arafura Men's Hostel to be closed?

   If so

   (a) when?

   (b) what use will be made of the land and existing buildings?

ANSWER

The above question is still under consideration and until a decision is made no details are available.

4 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

1. Were those prisoners in Fannie Bay Gaol who were entitled to vote in the Legislative Assembly elections allowed to do so?

2. Was a request made on polling day to the Cabinet Member for Law to authorise travel of prisoners to a polling booth to enable them to vote?

3. If such a request was made, was it refused?

ANSWER

1. The only restriction on voting by any prisoner at the Darwin Gaol eligible to vote in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly elections, was that the vote should be made through postal voting. The prisoner would be required to vote for candidates in the electorate for which he was enrolled. Applications for postal votes closed at 6 p.m., Friday, 12th August.

   No prisoner sought to lodge a vote either prior to or on polling day. For security reasons and staff availability it would not be practicable for prisoners to travel to polling booths to vote.

   All prisoners had full exposure to election details through normal television and radio programmes. As well the daily newspaper is purchased by prison authorities and circulated to prisoners wishing to read it.

2. I understand that the Cabinet Member for Law was approached with a request that prisoners be allowed to leave the prison to travel to a polling booth sometime during the afternoon of polling day.

3. On making inquiries and being advised in the terms of the answers to question 1 above, there was no reason to approve prisoners leaving the prison to travel to a polling booth.

5 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

1. How much of the $20,000 for the Primary Producers Board mentioned on page 18 of "Explanations to the Allocation of Funds (Supply) Ordinance 1977-78" has been spent?

2. How many meetings of the Primary Producers Board have been held since June 30, 1977?

3. How much has been paid to the Chairman of the Primary Producers Board in -

   (a) fees;

   (b) allowances; and

   (c) travel and subsistence

   since June 30, 1977?

4. How much has been paid to each of the members (other than the Chairman) of the Primary Producers Board in -

   (a) fees;

   (b) allowances; and

   (c) travel and subsistence

   since June 30, 1977?

5. How many meetings of the Primary Producers Board were held in the 1976-77 financial year?

6. How much was paid to the Chairman of the Primary Producers Board in the 1976-77 financial year for -

   (a) fees;

   (b) allowances; and

   (c) travel and subsistence?

7. How much was paid to each of the members (other than the Chairman) of the Primary Producers Board in the 1976-77 financial year for -

   (a) fees;

   (b) allowances; and

   (c) travel and subsistence?

ANSWERS

1. $3,357,000

2. Two

3. (a) $ 2,100.00
   (b) $ 635.00
   (c) Nil

4. (a) $ 270.00
   (b) $ 187.60
   (c) $ 164.20

5. Fourteen

6. (a) $12,140.00
   (b) $ 2,514.00
   (c) $ 2,506.00

7. (a) $ 1,694.00
   (b) $ 962.00
   (c) $ 1,466.00

Please note, these amounts were paid to only one other private member.

33 Mr DOOLAN to Mr EVERINGHAM

1. Has he seen the report of the Joint Select Committee on Aboriginal Land Rights in the Northern Territory?

2. Does he agree that the report is highly critical of the complementary legislation introduced into the last Assembly?

3. Will he give an undertaking that any future complementary legislation to the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 will implement that recommendation of the Joint Select Committee's Report?

ANSWER

1. Yes

2. This question is out of order.

3. I have indicated to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the 2 land councils that I accept in principle the recommendations of the Report.

34 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

What stage have negotiations reached between the Australian Government and the Anglican Church regarding the future of Carpentaria College which is rapidly deteriorating?

ANSWER

Negotiations between the Department of the Northern Territory and the Carpentaria College Council are at the stage where the College Council has been advised that a surrender of the lease could be accepted on the basis of write-off of the loan debt owed by the College Council to the Government.

Compensation payable on surrender of a Special Purposes Lease is limited to that which would be the value to the Government of the improvements on the land.

Previous proposals for use of the buildings by various Government agencies could not be justified owing to the high cost of repair and reconstruction needed.

35 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

Is it true that the Government is hiring tools and equipment for work on the No. 4 generator at the Stokes Hill Power Station due to cuts in capital expenditure? Is this resulting in more cost than if the tools were purchased?

ANSWER

Generally, tools and equipment are purchased to meet essential requirements in the maintenance of major capital items, including the Stokes Hill Power Station.

However, there are occasions where tools and equipment are hired for specific jobs where the purchase of capital equipment would not be justified.

In some instances, there have been continuing needs for specialised tools and equipment and this has resulted in greater costs than if these were purchased at the outset.

59 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Will he inform the Assembly whether the Majority Party intends to oppose the Borroloola and the Warlpiri Aboriginal land claims about to be heard by the NT Aboriginal Land Commissioner and, if so, why?

ANSWER

The Majority Party does not intend to oppose the claims. It proposes however to put a statement of facts before the Commissioner.

60 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

1. When is he going to announce the appointees to the NT Parks and Wildlife Commission and Advisory Council?

2. Will provisions be made for Aboriginal representatives to be appointed to both the Commission and the Advisory Council?

ANSWER

1. As soon as possible.

2. Membership will be determined by the Administrator in Council and the Executive Member after consideration of all the applications for appointment to the positions. Consideration would certainly be given to suitable Aboriginal applicants.

61 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

When does he anticipate that the Northern Territory will have a differential cost of living index?

ANSWER

1. The Australian Bureau of Statistics produces an experimental index of relative food prices for Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs and Nhulunbuy measured against the weighted average of the six State Capitals. Because of severe conceptual and practical problems there are no plans to expand this index to non-food items. These problems include establishing a satisfactory set of weights for a standard "basket" of goods and services as well as the conceptual problems in establishing new techniques for handling items which are not common in all centres (eg. winter clothing in Darwin) and for adjusting prices to remove the effects of quality differences for items where brands and styles etc., vary from centre to centre.

2. For Darwin the Australian Bureau of Statistics plans to begin publication during 1978 of a Monthly temporal price index for the Food Groups of the Consumer Price Index regimen.

62 Mr VALE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Are new cars on order for the Traffic Section of the NT Police? If so, how many are on order and, of these, how many are for Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine?

ANSWER

The approved establishment of traffic vehicles is, Darwin six, Alice Springs four and Kathering two. There is no traffic section at Tennant Creek. There are twelve vehicles on order to replace the vehicles currently in use at the three centres.

63 Mr VALE to Mr EVERINGHAM

In regard to winter uniforms on order for officers attached to the police Traffic Section in Alice Springs -

(a) What are the details of the uniforms; and

(b) will all officers in the section receive them?

ANSWER

All members stationed at Alice Springs have been issued with pullovers. Arrangements are in hand for the issue of five leather jackets for use by members of the Alice Springs Traffic Section engaged on motorcycle duties.

66 Mr VALE to Mr EVERINGHAM

What is the generating capacity of electricity generators installed at Pine Creek?

What is the peak maximum demand for electricity at Pine Creek?

If the generating capacity is in excess of demand, what modifications, if any, have the generating units had?

ANSWER

There are two generating sets at the Pine Creek Power Station. One unit has a capacity of 474 kilowatts and the other has a capacity of 370 kilowatts.

The maximum demand recorded at the Pine Creek Power Station reached 165 kilowatts during September this year.

Both generators at Pine Creek are driven by Dorman model 12 cylinder diesel engines which are capable of producing 474 kilowatts with turbo chargers fitted and 370 kilowatts with the turbo chargers removed. The output of one of the sets was reduced from 474 kilowatts to 370 kilowatts by the removal of the turbo charger equipment during an overhaul in March this year. It is planned to reduce the output of the second set in a similar manner during an overhaul scheduled for December this year.

69 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

Is his answer to Question No. 2 still the same as at today's date?

ANSWER

Yes.

70 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Is he aware that the Apprentices Ordinance 1948 does not comply with the requirements of International Labor Organisation Convention No. 65 - Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers) 1939?

Will he advise when the Ordinance will be amended to comply with the requirements.

ANSWER

Yes, my attention has beendrawn to the discrepancy between the Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers) Convention 1939 and the Apprentices Ordinance. The Convention provides for the abolition of penal sanctions for breaches of contract of employment, though not for the abolition of the normal civil action for breach of contract. I understand that the committee of experts of the International Labour Organization has indicated that the Convention is not confined to penal sanctions applying particularly to indigenous workers.

The responsibility for the Apprentices Ordinance at present rests with the Federal Minister for Education but will be transferred to the Assembly on 1 January 1978. I regard the provision of industrial training as being of major importance for the Territory and have already initiated a thorough review of the Apprentices Ordinance. This review will include a consideration of the Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers) Convention 1939.

72 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Have instructions been issued to members of the Commonwealth Employment Service in relation to inquiries from members of the public about the availability of employment in connection with uranium mining development at Jabiru?

If so, what are these instructions and on what grounds were they issued?

ANSWER

No.

93 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is he aware that counsel for the Chief Secretary's Department told Mr Justice Toohey that he understood that the Chief Secretary would require to see copies of any statements to be presented by employees of Departments under his control prior to their being admitted as evidence before the Aboriginal Land Commissioner?

Is it the intention of the Chief Secretary to have these statements censored prior to their being admitted to evidence?

Has he been asked by either counsel or Mr Justice Toohey to give an assurance that witnesses who have given evidence in the Borroloola land claim and who are employed by the NT Museums and Art Galleries will not be prejudiced in their careers within the public service for giving such evidence?

Has he declined to give such an assurance? If so, why? If not, will he now give an assurance that no action will be taken to inhibit or prejudice the careers of such employees?

ANSWER

I am not so aware. The statement for use by counsel was -

"The N.T. Executive announced to this Commission at the commencement of this hearing its intention of maintaining a completely neutral stance on

the matter. The Executive was disturbed that despite this policy certain of its officers had given evidence on behalf of a party to these proceedings.

It is its intention to maintain its policy of complete impartiality in these matters.

The Executive has now directed all officers of the Northern Territory Public Service that they are not to give evidence on behalf of either applicants or objectors. The only exception to this policy is that any member of the N.T.P.S. presently in evidence before the Commission will be permitted to complete that evidence.

The Executive would however freely grant its approval to any officer of the N.T.P.S. whom the Commission believes may assist it with evidence of a factual nature being called before it by the Commission."

That statement was distributed to all units of the Northern Territory Public Service.

94 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is it a fact that the Pine Gap Joint Defence Research Facility is to be expanded in the near future with a further facility to be established adjacent to the Alice Springs Airport? If so -

(a) what is the purpose of this extension?

(b) who will pay the bill for the extension?

(c) what will be the cost of the installation?

ANSWER

No.

73 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

Can he now confirm that the Arafura men's hostel is to be closed and if that is so, can he inform this Assembly what use will be made of the land and existing buildings?

ANSWER

In anticipation of a question on this subject, I sought some information over the past couple of days. All I have been able to ascertain is that to date no decision has been made on the future of Arafura Hostel, but that one is expected in the new year.

74 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

He will, of course, have seen the posters put up around the town by the Police Association advising the public of their displeasure with the federal Criminal Investigation Bill. Would he undertake to ascertain from the Police Association what specific objections they have to what clauses of that bill, and table that statement in the House so that it can be debated rationally here?

ANSWER

Firstly, I have not actually seen these posters around town but I will make it my business to attempt to obtain a copy of the poster that the honourable member refers to, In relation to the particular bill which I understand would have now dropped out, the federal parliament having been prorogued, I would certainly be prepared to ask the Police Association what their objections are. I think that perhaps before any statement is tabled in this House on the matter, I would prefer to discuss the reasons that I get from the Police Association with the honourable member for Nightcliff.

75 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

Is it a fact that the Roper River settlement has recently bought 110 tons of beef from Cairns meatworks and that retail outlets at Gove and other places are also obtaining their meat supplies from the same source? If this is a fact, why cannot supplies be provided from within the Northern Territory in view of there being Aboriginal-run cattle stations adjacent to Ngukurr?

ANSWER

My understanding is that it is true, that beef is being supplied from outside the Northern Territory to places like Gove and Groote. The reason is the cost of transport and the quality of the beef. It is probably well known that many quality cuts have to be brought into the Northern Territory. I do not know the short term answer but, in the future, we will have to try to improve our production and rationalise our transport costs.

76 Mr HARRIS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it a fact that there is a study being carried out on the possibility of draining the Marrara swamp area for mosquito eradication purposes and, if so, what stage are these investigations at?

ANSWER

The question should have been directed to the Darwin Reconstruction Commission because, in 1976, it commissioned a firm of engineers called Willing and Partners and the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation to conduct a stormwater drainage study. The Department of Health provided information on the mosquito hazards associated with these two areas and the consultants came up with three possible courses of action. The recommendation was to accept the third of them: the formalisation of the swamp to form a lake. The department is unaware of any further action in this regard.

77 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Have the regulations for the Construction Safety Ordinance been completed? If not, what is the hold-up? If they have been completed, why haven't they been brought into effect?

ANSWER

The regulations for the Construction Safety Ordinance have not been completed. It is not entirely our fault. I have talked in recent days to the people in charge of this business and they will bring it forward as fast as they can.

78 Mr OLIVER to Mr ROBERTSON

Despite the diligent efforts of the staff at Traegar Park School, there is a disturbing rate of truancy. Could he inform the Assembly of the rate of truancy at Traegar Park School over 3 years, and can he compare that rate with the average rate in the Northern Territory and the nation as a whole?

ANSWER

I had some warning of the question, but it is a matter of finding the information. I did do a little bit of research on it because he previously expressed his concern to me; it isn't a Dorothy Dix question at all. The level of truancy or what you might call "absenteeism" as opposed to truancy in the Traegar Park School is extremely high. The overall average in Northern Territory government schools, the only information that I was able to obtain, is 13%. This, in itself, is an extremely high figure. The Aboriginal rate is regarded as being about 20.6% and the urban rate is 10.1%. Over the three years 1975 to 1977, the rate at Traegar Park School was 24.3% in 1975, 35.9% in 1976 and 27.4% in 1977. It does seem to me that a determined effort must be made, and not so much by the teachers who are doing their utmost. I do

believe we must look towards officers of the department who are more involved in its social field, to speak to parents and find out where the difficulties lie. It is extremely disturbing that this percentage should pertain to Traegar Park School in Alice Springs and 13% overall in the Northern Territory is not what you would call good. I think it is something that the department should devote a little more attention to and it is certainly something that I will be pursuing with the department.

79 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr PERRON

Will the Housing Commission be building houses at Nhulunbuy in the next 2 years? If so, what style of house will be built in that area and what will be the approximate cost of the houses?

ANSWER

For the first time this year, the Housing Commission has provided in its allocations for the building of 19 houses at Nhulunbuy. At present, negotiations are being pursued at Nhulunbuy with a view to preparing site development work to allow for construction to commence at an early stage. It is envisaged that timber frame houses will be built at Nhulunbuy. The design will reflect a primary concern for adequate ventilation and cyclone proofing in line with the Housing Commission's experience of building in tropical areas. The estimated cost of the houses is in the vicinity of $45,000 to $46,000 each.

80 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Is he aware that the Federal Leader of the Opposition's promise to build a new wharf at Fort Hill was recommended by the Bureau of Transport Economics? Has the Prime Minister given a similar undertaking and has the executive member's cabinet considered the report and made a recommendation?

ANSWER

We are well aware of the Leader of the Federal Opposition's promises. At this stage, we are looking at an early submission to go to government. We made a statement in recent months about our proposition to fund a land-backed wharf and that would have been a Commonwealth funded proposition, not a Territory funded proposition as other people would have you believe. We are looking at it now and it is just a matter of finalising the documents and taking them to the government to let them have a look at it.

81 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

In view of the amount raised by the dingo tax, which would hardly pay the salary and expenses of one dogger and certainly not one of the clerical staff to administer it, and having regard to the nuisance value of collection and to the depressed state of the cattle industry, has consideration been given to the stopping of this ridiculous impost and if not, why not?

ANSWER

I do not know if Mr Brennan is around but he was a great champion of the dingo tax. In fact, he wanted to have it doubled on many occasions when he was the member for Elsey.

I have a prepared reply to this question. A dingo tax is imposed on all pastoral leases in the NT of 5 cents per square kilometre. Last financial year a total of $13,532 was collected, $7,418 north of Tennant Creek and $6,114 south of Tennant Creek.

No doggers are currently employed. There used to be an establishment of six. However, in recent years only two have been employed. One of those retired nearly three years ago and his position was transferred to Wildlife as an industrial position. The other dogger died some six months ago and the position has been transferred as a mechanic at Nourlangie, also with Wildlife.

Consideration has not been given to cutting out this tax. During the last financial year an aerial baiting program was carried out at the request of pastoralists, using 1080 poison. Government involvement was two men for one week and one man for four weeks, advising the pastoralists on how and where to bait. Road transport was provided by the department with the pastoralists providing the aircraft. Six pounds of 1080 poison was supplied at $64 a pound at department cost.

Calf losses of 3% up to 5% are estimated - this is not from the 1080 - with some pastoralists claiming a much higher figure. Regardless of the nuisance value and the state of the cattle industry, dingo control is considered essential by both pastoralists and wildlife officers.

82 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TUXWORTH

I preface this by saying it is a question I have asked unsuccessfully for six years. Is it the intention of the Majority Party and the executive member responsible to introduce legislation controlling the use of antibiotics in stock feed and, if so, when?

ANSWER

I would ask that that question be placed on notice.

83 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr STEELE

With the introduction of TAA and Ansett DC9 aircraft to Gove, what arrangements have been made to improve the mail service to Groote Eylandt and Gove and, further, will MMA be phased out of the operation because of TAA coming into this area and what will be the fate of MMA's F28 aircraft?

ANSWER

We are greatly concerned at the service, particularly that Groote Eylandt has been reduced, in fact, cut in half. It is a little early to say with any degree of certainty what effect the introduction of the weekly DC9 services of both TAA and Ansett to Gove will have on the other services, including mail services to Groote Eylandt and Gove. It would appear that MMA has adopted a wait-and-see attitude and will not be introducing any additional services on these routes until there is a demand for additional traffic on days other than the TAA and Ansett services. We are investigating the possibility that either MMA or Connair could put on an additional service and we have already done the sums on what it would cost to do so. The honourable member would appreciate that Connair certainly could not become involved in the operation unless it was profitable, and with the outmoded aircraft Connair is using, an additional service could be operated at much lower cost by a company using modern aircraft. So it would appear that if there is to be additional services, MMA is in a better position to operate this service than anyone else. As to the fate of the F28 aircraft, I do not think this is a matter of any seriousness at the moment, MMA, of course, operate quite a number of these aircraft on intrastate services in Western Australia, and as it is part of the Ansett operation, I would think that if there are any surplus aircraft, which I doubt, they could probably be absorbed into Ansett's operation elsewhere.

84 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

Can he advise what arrangements are being made to transfer homes owned by the North Australia Railway in the Parap area to the Housing Commission or other Northern Territory housing authority, and when will residents be informed of what is happening to their houses?

ANSWER

The Housing Commission is negotiating with the North Australia Railway for the possible takeover by the Housing Commission of houses in the Northern Territory currently owned by Australian National Railways. I can assure the honourable member that in such negotiations, should these negotiations result in an actual transfer of those houses, the rights of the existing tenants in the houses will be fully protected. This is one of the prime concerns of the Housing Commission; during its negotiations it is bearing this in mind and minimising any possible disruption that may occur to tenants who are in those houses at the present time.

85 Mr DONDAS to Mr ROBERTSON

Is he able to indicate what steps of preparedness the NT Emergency Services have taken for the oncoming cyclone season?

ANSWER

I can well understand the honourable member for Casuarina asking that question. The first meeting of the Disaster Council has been held at which the disaster plans for the Northern Territory were endorsed. The Northern Territory's control zones under the Disasters Ordinance have now been agreed to, and I must say I would like to commend the various departments - the Department of Construction, the Police Force and my own Emergency Services unit - for the effort they have put in to date. I think, logistically and in terms of training, mobility and knowledge, we are very well prepared for any eventuality in the nature of cyclones or, indeed, for any other type of disaster that may occur.

However, in answering this question, I could not let the opportunity pass without making some criticism of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission and the Department of Northern Territory in its complete lack of funding in the area of making secure public shelters. I am extremely concerned that, through my department and through the various units which will be involved in the case of a cyclone, we are going to go to the people and tell them they can come to certain buildings within this city and feel safe therein. I am afraid they cannot. The funds which have been previously allocated for the purpose of making windows safe from flying glass have been withdrawn and there is absolutely no chance now this season of these being reinstated and work being done. It is considerable expense; it is in the six figure area. I call now upon the Department of Northern Territory to comply with its responsibility to this city and make those shelters safe for the people of this city.

86 Mr HARRIS to Mr TUXWORTH

The following information is requested concerning the Northern Territory Enviromental Council: how much is the budget allocation; how is the money distributed; is the money being spent in accordance with government guidelines on spending; how do you qualify as an environmentalist; and how much of the budget allocation is being spent in the southern region of the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I did have forewarning of the question. There is no allocation in the Northern Territory budget for the Northern Territory Environmental Council. However, the 1977-78 federal budget provides $300,000 for grants to voluntary conservation organisations to assist with their administrative expenses. How is the money distributed? The allocation of funds has not yet been determined but will be done by the minister who is advised by the Australian Heritage Commission. Is the money being spent in accordance with government guidelines? If an allocation is made to the Northern Territory Environmental Council, it will be spent in accordance with the government guidelines on spending. In answer to the fourth question, there are no special qualifications required for people to become environmentalists. One should become actively involved with one of the member groups

of the council. In relation to the fifth part of the question, funds allocated to the Northern Territory Enviromental Council would not be designated to particular areas but would be earmarked for special projects,

87 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it the intention of the Health Department to use the completed staff quarters at the Casuarina Hospital before its opening some time in 1979?

ANSWER

The short answer is no. However, I believe there will be a small team of commissioning people established in the quarters during the initial periods of establishment.

88 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

Could he advise what response he has received to his correspondence to the minister regarding the advertising of staff positions for the national park.

ANSWER

I assume that he is referring to my correspondence with the Minister for Housing, Environment and Community Development. The short answer is that I have had no reply.

89 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr PERRON

How many times has the Darwin Reconstruction Commission met? How many times did each member or his delegate attend those meetings?

Mr SPEAKER: I think questions like this should be placed on notice but if the honourable Executive Member for Finance and Planning has the answer, he may go ahead.

ANSWER

I do not have an answer to that question and would ask that it be placed on notice.

97 Mr HARRIS to Mr ROBERTSON

Is it accepted that some services provided by the Regional Councils for Social Development in Alice Springs and Darwin were useful and of benefit in our community and, if so, what is being done to see that such services continue?

ANSWER

I would certainly agree that there were functions carried out by both regional councils in Darwin and Alice Springs which were quite useful to the community and it is vital that these programs be maintained but, I believe, they should be maintained in a more efficient and productive manner. For instance, there was a program being conducted by the Regional Council for Social Development in Darwin called the Homemaker Service. This, of course, was one of the reasons why the executive, through me, decided not to continue public funding because it turned out that the Community Development Branch of the Department of the Northern Territory has its own homemaker service. It would certainly be my intention, as from July next year, to see that that service is in fact strengthened. In Alice Springs, also, they produced a community guide which I think everyone recognised as an extremely valuable community program. I can see no reason why we cannot continue that program through our present resources.

The main function, I think, that the regional councils provided to the community was to give access to typing and photocopying and that type of activity to groups which would normally find secretarial fees or, alternatively, the purchase of equipment for secretarial purposes quite beyond their reach. It is my intention, upon the acceptance of the functions now carried out by the Department of Northern Territory, to establish access offices in all centres in the Northern Territory. This can be done virtually within the present staff structure or with minimal additions. It would be my proposal, and certainly it would be my instruction to my department under such circumstances, that these be virtually independent offices - offices in my mind which people could go for the purpose of having this type of work done. The type of people I visualise using these particular access offices would be those that would normally be eligible under the guidelines established by the executive for eligibility to community grants - that is, organisations which are constituted and which are of a non-profit and self-help nature.

98 Mr ISAACS to Mr TUXWORTH

Has the Department of Health sufficient vaccination needles and personnel to cope with the current problem of Vietnamese immigrants? Can the executive member assure the Assembly that everything is being done to stem the current tide of these immigrants? Is he aware that the situation is causing great concern to everyone in the community, not least the vast number of migrants already in Australia who are having great difficulty in bringing their own relations to Australia to join them and also the workers who face the pressures and insecurity of the current unemployment position? Has he heard that, because of the new diesel motors and some modern navigation aids on board some of the refugee boats, there is concern that the refugees are part of a well orchestrated organisation?

Mr SPEAKER:

Before calling the Executive Member for Resources and Health, I would point out that some of these questions are far too long. They should be split up into a couple of divisions to allow the members time to answer them properly. It is in the interest of all members seeking information that full information be provided on questions without notice, otherwise the questions should be placed on the notice paper.

ANSWER

In replying to the honourable member's question, obviously parts of it are outside the jurisdiction of the Department of Health in the Northern Territory and, indeed, the Commonwealth Department of Health. I am well aware of the concern in the community, Mr Speaker, about the entry of illegal immigrants into Australia and the threat they pose to the Northern Territory. It was with this in mind that I have asked the Department of Health to prepare for the Assembly a position paper relating to the quarantine facilities and the exact catering arrangements for these people in the Territory and I would hope that that paper will be available for members of the Assembly today.

Just as an aside, Mr Speaker, I have no objection to answering these questions at any time. However, if the honourable member would give me half an hour notice, it would give me an opportunity to provide him with a full answer.

99 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it a fact that in the Howard Swamp area sand miners are operating beyond their proper leases, with very unfortunate effects to the surrounding environment? If this is a fact, why has no action been taken to stop them acting in this manner?

ANSWER

Again if the honourable member had given me an indication of the area which was of concern to her, I could have done a little research and answered the question in detail. However, Mr Speaker, this question is in line with a barrage of others I have received from the member for Tiwi who is also expressing concern about the removal of sand and gravel and the general extraction activities in that 32 square mile area and the surrounds of Darwin proper.

Mr Speaker, this is a historical problem that has been with us for some time and honourable members might like to look sometime at a map we have prepared that shows existing sand and gravel leases and extractive leases which have been with us for many years and form almost a patch - work quilt on the Darwin scene. Since the acquisition of the 32 square mile area several years ago - for which the government paid many, many millions of dollars - the sand and gravel extractive activities have continued unabated and this is to our executives' point of view a totally unsatisfactory arrangement. It seems mindless, Mr Speaker, to spend millions of dollars to acquire land for subdivisional areas and then have another department issuing leases for extractive works to be carried on in that area. We would like to see it halted as soon as possible.

On top of the existing operations, Mr Speaker, there are also an additional 20 applications for further leases in the pipeline from people who would like to have available sand and gravel for their operations and most of them are of a minor nature. A meeting was held two or three weeks ago with the Executive Member for Finance and Planning, myself and Department of the Northern Territory officals concerning the problem and it was agreed that there should be no further leases issued within the areas mentioned by the honourable member and that, in fact, it would be ideal if the leases which already exist there could be cancelled and transferred to another area, so that persons operating these leases will do less damage than what has already been done but also be given an opportunity to continue their operations.

Mr Speaker, the actual mechanics of bringing this matter to an acceptable resolve have yet to be worked out but I can assure members on both sides of the House that we are aware of the problem, we are very conscious of the unsatisfactory nature of it and we will work to bring it to a conclusion as soon as possible.

100 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr TUXWORTH

What stage has been reached with the erection of a health centre at Howard Springs and, when finished, what facilities will the centre provide?

ANSWER

I would ask that the question be placed on notice.

101 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

In view of the fact that no prisoner who was eligible to vote by postal vote in the Legislative Assembly election exercised his right to do so, will he ensure that prisoners are made aware of their right to vote in the forthcoming federal election and that the voting is facilitated by distribution of postal vote application forms in Northern Territory prisons?

ANSWER

I hope the honourable member was not implying that the prisoners at Fannie Bay were deliberately denied access. Indeed, the opposite is true. Facilities were in fact made available and no one chose to exercise those facilities. It is an area that concerns my Director of Correctional Services and he too was wondering why. Certainly, I will undertake a program of education through the Director of Correctional Services and see if they in future do not choose to exercise their right to vote.

102 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

Can he give an indication if and when the speedway will be relocated?

ANSWER

The speedway will be shifted without any doubt but I cannot say when this will happen. There are a number of departments involved in this area, particularly the Darwin Reconstruction Commission for the next month or so. I would suggest that, when the town planning function is

transferred to the Legislative Assembly, we will see more rapid action than we have seen in the last few years. There have been calls for the relocation of the speedway and once again I hope to be able to demonstrate that, with the transfer of powers, the Northern Territory Assembly will respond to local demands.

103 Mr DONDAS to Mr ROBERTSON

I refer to my question without notice yesterday regarding the preparedness of the Counter Disaster Organisation. Could he give details of the precise position regarding public shelters in Darwin because the answer he gave yesterday causes me some concern?

ANSWER

I hope I did not give the impression yesterday that there are not widespread shelters available to Darwin people. It is necessary to bear in mind that numerous houses and flats have been constructed within the code of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission. Certainly, a vast majority of Darwin people would now be housed in coded buildings. The precise position is that the archives building will take 500 people, the Wanguri Primary School 1,500, the Tiwi school 1,500, Nakara school 1,500, administration blocks 4, 5, 6, and 7 will take between them 2,800, motor vehicle registry will take 500, Howard Springs school 1,280, Nightcliff High School 1,900, Casuarina High School 1,550, administration block 8 1,750 and Kormilda College 2,000. This gives us safe shelter for 16,780. The reference I made yesterday was to requirements from the federal government. The matter is quite beyond our resources. If we had the money, I can assure the House that we would appropriate a million dollars plus to it. The requirement is to put screens on the windows of certain of these buildings and this would either create a more comfortable shelter for those who are there or enable another four or five thousand to go into them. At the moment, people cannot shelter in areas adjacent to windows; they must use rooms which are protected or the lobbies or corridors. It is just a matter of putting screens over the windows and design work has been done on this. The Darwin Reconstruction Commission knew what was necessary, my department knows what is necessary; it is just a matter of the Department of Northern Territory getting its priorities sorted out and making funds available as a matter of priority.

104 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Which executive member will have responsibility for the Coordinator-General? Will the position be part of the new administration?

ANSWER

Whilst my views are not quite firm on this, I do think that the Department of the Chief Secretary will probably retain responsibility for the position of Coordinator-General, at least during the course of the current administration.

105 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

What will be the relationship between the Coordinator-General and the Director-General of his department? During these sittings, can he table the duties of each of the positions?

ANSWER

The Director-General is the Director-General of the Chief Secretary's Department in the Northern Territory Public Service. The Coordinator-General will be a subservient official to him within the department and he will have the responsibility of coordinating various functions as outlined in my speech on the address in reply yesterday. I outlined the duties of the Coordinator-General yesterday, I do not see any need to table any further statement in regard to that. I would be quite happy for the Leader of the Opposition to discuss with the Public Service Commissioner the duties of the Director-General.

106 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr EVERINGHAM

Does he know for a fact that the Department of Construction is preparing at one of its southern offices the design and documentation for a new Legislative Assembly building? If he does know this for a fact, can he inform the House where this building is to be located?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I rather think that this is your prerogative. I really know nothing of the matter except certain rumours. I would suggest that the question could be better directed to yourself.

107 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it true that the latest official figure for VD in Maningrida amongst the natives is 86%? This figure was published in the National Times.

ANSWER

I saw the article in the National Times alleging that this figure of 86% was in fact a reality and I took it up with the Department of Health, It would appear that the statement was pure sensationalism and probably designed to sell newspapers. I believe that it is a slight and a libel upon the Aboriginals at Maningrida because the Health Department records show that no such situation exists. We have no isolated figures for Maningrida. On a Territory-wide basis the Aboriginal community has a 48% factor as far as gonorrhoea is concerned and the European community has a 55% contamination factor. There is no doubt that there is a great increase in the incidence of syphilis in the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia. It is not an increase that is confined to Maningrida or to the Northern Territory. In fact, the Health Department records show that only 5% of the population at Maningrida has in fact been registered with this disease.

108 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

This question relates to a question I asked without notice at the last sittings. He advised me to put the question on notice which I did at that time, although it only appears with yesterday's date, It is question No. 58, regarding the reference to the legal opinion being prepared for the trustees for Darwin Cyclone Tracy Relief Trust Fund by Mr Ian Barker. I ask, what were the instructions given to Mr Barker by the trustees and from what source is Mr Barker to be paid

for this opinion and under what authority? I would ask the Majority Leader when I can expect to receive a reply to that question.

ANSWER

In answer to the honourable member's question, I believe I am not going to be permitted to make available the information requested by her - firstly, the instructions and so on given to Mr Barker, on the basis that this information is privileged. As to who is paying for Mr Barker, the Attorney-General or the Department of Northern Territory will be paying Mr Barker's fees in this matter.

I might indicate to the honourable member, however, that I have been pressing this matter since the last sittings of the Assembly - in fact, before that. The position now is that we actually have an opinion from Mr Barker which was sent back some months ago to the Commonwealth Solicitor-General for comment because the two opinions were in conflict. As yet we have no response from the Commonwealth Solicitor-General. My regular communications with the Minister for the Northern Territory by telex on this subject lead me to believe that the Solicitor-General might be getting around to giving the matter his attention, I have indicated to the Minister for the Northern Territory that I consider the position to be one of grave concern, if not embarrassment, and that I propose, as soon as the Northern Territory assumes responsibility for the Department of Law, to use that Department of Law to get this legal situation in connection with the termination of the Cyclone Tracy Relief Trust Fund cleared up once and for all.

110 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

What use will be made of the site at Stokes Street, Parap which was formerly occupied by the Parap infant school?

ANSWER

I cannot quite recall how the block was zoned in the recent town planning which was displayed by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission. If my memory serves me correctly, the site was reserved for a government institution. However, I could be wrong and I will delay answering that question until the Darwin Reconstruction Commission has completed the review of objections to the town plan. The powers of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission in relation to town planning will still exist until January and they would be the only people who could determine what that site could be used for up until that date.

111 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr TUXWORTH

Is dental staff available for the dental clinics which will open for the school term 1978 in the Anula and Wulagi school buildings?

ANSWER

I will endeavour to find out the answer today.

112 Mr VALE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can the government guarantee that all refugees have landed at Port Darwin and that none have entered Australia in deserted areas of the coastline?

ANSWER

In the time available to me since notice of that question was given to me, I have been unable to ascertain from the government whether it can give such a guarantee. Obviously, communication will have to be had with the various defence forces concerned and the Immigration Department.

I think the question raises a particular problem that is vexing the Darwin community and in fact the Northern Territory and even the whole of Australia at the moment, judging by the concern expressed through the media and expressed to me personally by various individuals to whom I have been speaking. And I, not least, and members of the Majority Party, I am sure, and all members of this Assembly are concerned about this peaceful invasion. We are concerned for the job security of Australians who are perhaps threatened in that quarter by the admission of these significant numbers of unauthorised immigrants. We are concerned particularly in the Northern Territory about the question of disease entering, because we are the front line here; it is we who will have to bear the burden of the assault and it is our community that will suffer in body and in its pocket as well if disease is permitted to enter into this community through these vessels and the people on them coming without necessary supervision into northern Australia. We have at the moment a blue tongue scare which is seriously affecting the Northern Territory cattle industry and one wonders how that particular disease came to Australia some years ago, as perhaps it did, and one wonders whether any other diseases are at the moment on their way to Australia in some of the other boats that we are told are on the way.

This morning I was able, through the kind permission of the Director of Health, to make a personal inspection of the quarantine station at East Arm and I inspected there the system of medical checks on all these people. There are a considerable number of people there at the moment - over 150. I observed that they are being processed regularly through the facilities there. They are undergoing a list of checks that is a foolscap page long. I understand that this present lot will be evacuated to the south some time this evening in anticipation of others arriving.

I also understand that perhaps the health risk may not be as grave as one would expect. However, I would not want any risks to be taken. The Director of Health explained to me that these people are at sea for at least 14 days in these crafts. The period of quarantine for smallpox is 14 days and 5 days for cholera.

Presumably, if any of these people had contracted diseases, they would arrive in Australia either very sick or they would not have arrived in Australia at all. Despite that, every possible precaution is being taken and I understand two doctors and two additional nursing staff will arrive in Darwin this afternoon from the south to strengthen the facilities at East Arm. I am also concerned,Mr Speaker,about the question of surveillance, so that we

will have adequate notice when these vessels are arriving. In that regard, I sent a telegram to the Prime Minister this morning asking him to establish a Commonwealth, state and Territory study of the problem as a matter of urgency. I said Commonwealth, state and Territory because I believe that the states of Queensland and Western Australia could well be involved and should be brought in at this early stage. I told the Prime Minister that the Northern Territory executive believes that no solution will be found to the problem of the unauthorised entry of Vietnamese vessels carrying refugees until the situation is examined by all interested parties. The Territory is vitally interested as it is in the front line of this peaceful invasion. The Northern Territory executive believes that it has a specific interest and is prepared to play its part in assisting the federal government to cope with the problem.

This brings me back to the point of the question about whether the government could guarantee that these people are not landing on the coastline in places other than Port Darwin. Probably Northern Territory officals such as police and wildlife rangers could come into contact with them first. That is why we want to be involved. It was said in this House yesterday that there appeared to be a concerted move on the part of these people to enter Australia and that there was evidence concerning new engines in these boats to support this. I made a particular point of checking this out whilst I was at the quarantine station this morning and I was informed that there is in one of the vessels a relatively new American Caterpillar diesel engine. Apparently, and one cannot vouch for the authenticity of this, the story that one is told, is that this group was lead by a farmer who took this engine out of his American tractor and installed it in his boat with a different gear box and differential. Presumably American equipment is lying around in South Vietnam after the period of Americans' involvement in the Vietnamese conflict. This sort of thing is being checked by the Immigration Department and I believe that, if the stories given by these people prove to be false, then action will have to be taken and certainly they will lose the sympathy of the Australian people. It may well be that there is an organised traffic going on. I would not put anything past unscrupulous people and certainly there appear to be enough of those in certain points of the globe near to us. We must put pressure on Indonesia and Malaysia to cooperate with us so that we can enforce our immigration policies. The pressure should be along these lines: "If you, our near neighbours, will not cooperate in this, how can we regard you as our friends?"

113 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Has he received a legal advising regarding the Darwin Co-op Taxi Company's $200 levy on all cab drivers? If so, what steps has he taken to stop it?

ANSWER

I have not yet received an advice from Crown Law and obviously, without that advice, I would be unable to take any action.

114 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr TUXWORTH

What progress has Mount Isa Mines made in solving its ore treatment problem and when can we expect it to get into full production and

thus open up the McArthur River area, create jobs and so assist the Northern Territory in its overall economy?

ANSWER

The honourable member kindly gave me notice ofthis; the company has provided me with the following information:

> Following initial teething difficulties, the pilot plant at McArthur River has been operating on a 24-hour basis since August at a rate of 50 tons per day, 5 days per week. The flow-sheet circuitry is being developed and test work is proceeding at a satisfactory rate of progress. It is too early to make any positive predictions regarding achievable grade and recovery of lead and zinc and the concentrates. The present program is expected to take 12 months after which results will be assembled and assessed.
>
> While the decision to develop the McArthur zinc lead ore body to a full scale mine will be primarily dependent on the development of a suitable technology to extract the minerals, there are a number of other factors of major importance. Chief among these are the international market price of metal, the world demand for lead and zinc, the availability of a suitable gulf port and the capital cost of the project. The engineering and economic feasibility studies are in progress but, at this stage, no realistic forecast can be made as to when the McArthur River mine will come into production.

115 Mr VALE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Could the proposed sessional committee of this Assembly on the environment have its scope enlarged at a later date to cover other areas of mining development within the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

At the present, I understand any mining development that may take place will take place within the proposed boundaries of the Kakadu National Park. I would have thought that it would have been sufficient at this stage for the terms of reference to go that far. If there should be uranium mining or development outside the boundaries of the park, certainly consideration would be given to enlarging the terms of reference and scope of the committee.

116 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

Is it true that the Darwin Reconstruction Commission at the request of the Administrator-in-Council has approved the building of a house on part of the Fannie Bay Gaol land,despite objections from the Town Planning Board?

ANSWER

I would have to investigate the matter and report later, However, I do point out that the workings and decisions of the Administrator's Council are not subject to tabling in this House in all cases. However, obviously a number of decisions that are made at the Administrator's Council or Executive Council level are published. I will endeavour to seek what information I can and table it during these sittings.

117 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr STEELE

Has he any further information on the cutbacks in the air service to Groote Eylandt and also the scheduling service between Gove, Cairns and Darwin?

ANSWER

It is a fairly confused position at the moment. The service has been reduced from four per week to Groote Eylandt down to two. I have had some exchange of correspondence with MMA in Perth. Because of the introduction of the 2 DC9s weekly between Gove and Darwin which offer 96 seats, there is an over-capacity which can only be adjusted by reduction of the F28s. The introduction of any other operator will only aggravate the position as far as MMA is concerned. They say that they will monitor the situation flight by flight and will increase services immediately the traffic levels justify it. This is nowhere near good enough and we will not slow down our efforts to try to get some sort of service between Groote Eylandt and Darwin.

118 Mr OLIVER to Mr EVERINGHAM

Does the Majority Leader see any merit in the suggestion by the federal Opposition Leader that members of parliament should publicly disclose details of their personal assets and financial holdings?

ANSWER

I have been listening to the rather pious hypocrisy of the federal Opposition Leader for some ten days now in respect of members of parliament disclosing details of their financial holdings. I can only speak for the members of the Country Liberal Party in this Assembly. We are quite prepared to make public details of our assets and financial affairs. I do believe that all candidates for public office should consider doing this and, in fact, the CLP candidates are prepared to do so. I challenge the ALP candidates for federal office to make their financial arrangements public and to deny unequivocally that they have ever participated in tax avoidance schemes.

119 Mr COLLINS to Mr ROBERTSON

Could the honourable member advise me of what action has been taken on the matter I raised yesterday concerning the non-replacement of the welfare officer at Gove?

ANSWER

I thank the honourable member for his question. In addition to the concern raised by him, I was also approached by a very annoyed, honourable member for Nhulunbuy. I had a member of my staff speak with the Social Development branch of the Department of Northern Territory, to reflect my great concern at that situation. Of all things, I was told that the branch is now 20 under its ceiling, but it cannot bring itself up to its established ceiling because the Department of Northern Territory as a whole is in excess of its ceiling. What an extraordinary thing! The whole area of Nhulunbuy, Gove and Elcho Island is denied the full-time services of this officer and its just entitlement in this direction

because the Department of Northern Territory cannot adjust, within itself, its own staffing arrangements. However I am advised that Elcho Island, which is the main problem area, is being served from Darwin. Thank you, very much.

However, there is one mitigating circumstance in this, and that is that Elcho would have to be served from Nhulunbuy anyway which requires flight to Elcho Island. I am informed the time interval for that flight is about the same as it would be from Darwin, because they would normally use the same commercial aircraft. Personally, I think the whole thing is a disgrace.

120 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

Given the present controversy over the Darwin City Council's campaign to put top soil on nature strips so that ratepayers can grass and water them, has he had a submission from the corporation regarding a rebate of water charges to those people who comply with the corporation's wishes? If so, what is his executive's attitude?

ANSWER

I have had no such submission from the city council.

121 Mr HARRIS to Mr TUXWORTH

On Tuesday the member for Arnhem claimed that you and officers of the Northern Territory Public Service had erred seriously in the gazettal of the names of members of the Wildlife Advisory Council of the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission. I would like to ask two questions. First of all, how did this occur and, secondly, when will it be rectified?

ANSWER

When the assertion was made by the honourable member for Arnhem in the House the other day, I felt almost as though I was in the position of catching the bishop with his fingers in the till, because the gentlemen responsible for carrying out the functions of gazettal have, to my knowledge, been men of near perfection. I had not known them to make a mistake before and I was most alarmed at what the honourable member had to say. The matter was taken up and the reply is simply this. The original ordinance No. 23 of 1977 provided that members of the advisory council, other than the directors, were to be appointed by the Administrator-in-Council, under section 80, part 2. The second ordinance No. 24 of 1977 amended section 80, part 2, by removing Administrator-in-Council and inserting Executive Member. That amendment was made by section 26 of the second ordinance. The commencement of section 26 of the second ordinance is expressed to be the date of commencement of section 3 of the first ordinance, the principal ordinance. Section 3 is the section of the principal ordinance which repeals the National Parks and Gardens Ordinance and the Wildlife Conservation and Control Ordinance. Section 3 has not been commenced; therefore, the appointments by the Administrator in the gazette were valid.

122 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

In the lane at the rear of the old Vic building there is a notice on the gate saying that cars can no longer park there as from a certain date as the bulldozers are moving in. My question to the honourable member is, can he advise the House if the facade of the Vic - and there are many recommendations to keep this particular part of Darwin's history - is also to be bulldozed or is it intended that the redevelopment preserve that facade?

ANSWER

I believe the developers of the old Victoria Hotel site, who are proposing to commence work this week, fully intend to keep the whole facade of the Vic Hotel and any other portion of the stone work and style that can be preserved, This is being incorporated in the overall development. I believe I am going to receive a couple of copies of the drawings and proposals of the development there, and I would be happy to let the honourable member peruse those when I receive them if she wishes. Whether I have any particular assurances - I do not believe at this stage there are any assurances in law, and I certainly have not received any, that these people will behave in the manner we would like them to. I do not know that there are any laws that can force them to, but I do believe their intentions are good. Their intentions are to preserve as much of the historical aspect of the old Vic Hotel as they possibly can, because they do appreciate and realise its value to Darwin and to that central Smith Street area.

123 Mr VALE to Mr PERRON

This question concerns the laying underground of power to the Head Street subdivision in Alice Springs, Can he advise if it is a fact that the high voltage power lines will be underground and the low voltage line will be overhead cable and, if so, why?

ANSWER

The advice I have on this subject is that there will be some underground and some overhead construction of electricity reticulation in the Head Street subdivision in Alice Springs. The advice is that low voltage reticulation will be overhead except for several short cabled sections in walkways and parkways. Some of the high voltage reticulation is to be underground. There are five substations in the subdivision and the high voltage supply for three of these will be underground due to their location near walkways and parkways. Reticulation to the remaining two substations will be overhead. That is all the information I have had provided on this subject. I notice that in that advice there is no explanation as to why that is the case. However, I am sure there are good technical reasons for planning the reticulation as they propose. We do intend, as a policy in future, to have as much power reticulation as economically reasonable laid underground in Alice Springs, realising the aesthetic value of the Alice Springs township and the impact on tourism if we continue with the awful pollution of overhead electricity reticulation, as has been done in the past.

124 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

Can he inform this Assembly what mechanism was used to give liquidity to the Home Finance Trustee in October this year?

ANSWER

I do not have that information immediately to hand. I certainly can obtain it and I will seek to table the answer to the honourable member's question on the next sitting day.

125 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

Can he advise the House of the sulphur content of the fuel presently being used at the Stokes Hill Power Station? If I could just explain, the reason for my question is that with serious emission from this station and rain, we have sulphuric acid pitting buildings and landing on clothes in the immediate vicinity, actually destroying them once the sulphur content is too high.

ANSWER

I certainly cannot give the honourable member this information off the top of my head; it is a little too technical for me. However, I will undertake to supply the information that the Department of Construction can provide for me and advise her later during these sittings.

126 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr ROBERTSON

Has any progress been made on the site for the museum? Is there a plan for the building of the new museum in the next 12 months and has a cost estimate been given on this? Is there any other way that they can spread their wings to other centres such as Nhulunbuy and Alice Springs?

ANSWER

The answer to all four questions is yes. There has been a site selected. There is still the usual bureaucratic problems in actually having it finalised but I am very confident that that matter is now very close to resolution. Architectural plans are in a very advanced stage at this time and the cost estimate is roughly $5m. Cabinet will be considering in the next financial year the commencement of funding that particular program. It will, of course, have to consider that priority in line with all of its other pressing priorities. The best method would probably be to phase it over three budgetary periods.

In respect of Alice Springs, most certainly there is an area set aside there and that program is well advanced. I am quite certain that the Museums and Art Galleries Board and Cabinet will be most anxious to extend programs through the Territory, particularly by way of travelling displays.

127 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr STEELE

In view of the recent reports of new airport facilities to be erected in Brisbane in the next couple of years, when will substantial improvements be made to the civilian terminal at Darwin airport, particularly in view of the desire of both parties to improve tourist facilities in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

In recent weeks, we have had discussions with the Department of Transport people and we are waiting to hear what their intentions are.

128 Mr HARRIS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it a fact that rats have been found on the Vietnamese vessels entering the Darwin harbour?

ANSWER

My understanding is that three rats have been found on the vessels that have put into Darwin port in recent days. These animals were found after the quarantine people had fogged and smoked the vessels to get rid of any lice and disease that may be on them. They were dead when they were found.

129 Mr COLLINS to Mr ROBERTSON

My question concerns a press statement made this morning by the NT Teachers Federation. Is it a fact that the Education Department intends to increase the rentals on teacher housing in Aboriginal communities?

ANSWER

I have not seen the press statement referred to by the honourable member but I recall something on ABC news this morning, I am seeking information on that and will be pleased to communicate it to him later in the day.

130 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr TUXWORTH

What exactly is being done to stop any contamination of the timber and wood around the wharf and harbour area and other boats that meet Vietnamese boats now streaming into Darwin? What is the exact position regarding the complete and utter destruction of any livestock, animals, birds or animal substance found on these Vietnamese boats?

ANSWER

I am unable to answer the first part of the question but I will endeavour to have an answer later in the day. The answer to the second part of the question is that any animals or livestock that are found on these vessels are disposed of by the Animal Industry Branch post haste.

131 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr TUXWORTH

For what purpose did an officer of the Department of Health, Canberra visit the Gove Hospital recently? If it was to do with staffing could he tell me the result of that visit?

ANSWER

There was a visit by an officer from the Department of Health. He was not there for staffing reasons but purely for familiarisation.

133 Mr VALE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can he advise if any services in the Northern Territory police need to be reduced or removed?

ANSWER

I certainly am not aware of any police services that are likely to be reduced. Additional money needs to be spent on upgrading police equipment and facilities, and it is the policy of the Majority Party to ensure that this is done as well as to improve the conditions of the police.

134 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr EVERINGHAM

In view of the Majority Leader's statement to this House concerning the transfer of Australian public servants to the Northern Territory Public Service on 22 September 1977, is he aware that some officers of the Australian Public Service whose positions are to be transferred on 1 January 1978 have been informed by their department that they have no choice but to transfer to the Northern Territory Public Service?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any direction given by any department of the Australian government to officers of the Australian Public Service that they have no alternative but to transfer to the Northern Territory Public Service in due course. However, I would certainly hope that all persons employed within the various Australian government departments which are to be transferred to the control of the Legislative Assembly would wish to join the Northern Territory Public Service where their conditions and entitlements of service will be preserved and in fact improved.

135 Mr HARRIS to Mr PERRON

Will objectors to the Darwin reconstruction plan be advised in writing of the results of their efforts?

ANSWER

The Darwin Reconstruction Commission has advised me that objectors whose objections were overruled will be advised in writing by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission. However, it is not intended to advise those whose objections were accepted. The acceptance of their objections will appear in a plan which will presumably be adopted by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission after they have completed processing all of the objections.

136 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

Where objections were not upheld and there has been a change in the zoning of areas under the new draft plan which was on display, is it intended that following passage of certain legislation in this Assembly, building in accordance with the new draft plan can proceed although it is quite different from that on the original plan? I give, as an example, the erection of high density dwellings where

once it was single storey, R3 instead of R1. Is there to be a further delay of three months or is building to be allowed to commence immediately?

ANSWER

The honourable member refers to legislation before this House, as I understand it, relating to town planning measures which are being adopted to ensure the smooth transition of planning authority in Darwin after the demise of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission. If I understand her question correctly, the situation as proposed will be that a plan that is to be adopted by the Administrator-in-Council will come into force as from 1 January 1978, and applications for development will be processed against that plan. In a circular which I sent yesterday to all members of the House, I indicated that amendments would be introduced during the committee stages of the Town Planning Bill before the House which would provide for that same plan to be on display for a period of three months from 1 January, whereby objections to the plan could be lodged during that period, as well as it having full statutory authority.

137 Mr DONDAS to Mr ROBERTSON

What steps are being taken by the Assembly executive to establish an office of ethnic affairs and immigration in the Northern Territory Public Service?

ANSWER

Members who were in the previous Assembly will recall that the then Majority Leader made an undertaking to the Northern Territory, that an office of ethnic affairs would be established, most likely at that stage within the Chief Secretary's Department. The present Majority Leader has decided in consultation with the executive, that that should properly come across to my department, the Department of Community and Social Development. We have arranged, through the Australian Public Service, for the secondment in the first week of February next year for three months of Mr Les Liveris who will be very well known to many honourable members here. He is a man, as we all know, who has been involved in this field for many years. He was born in Darwin and I think my thanks should go to the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs for making him available to us. His three months period of secondment will be sufficent to set up an office of ethnic affairs within the Northern Territory Public Service.

138 Mr COLLINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is he aware that some officers of the Australian Public Service who currently enjoy professional classification in the Australian Public Service have been advised by their departments that, when their positions are transferred to the Northern Territory Public Service on 1 January 1978, their re-entry into the APS can only be at equivalent clerical designation?

ANSWER

I am certainly not aware of these statements which are emanating from the Opposition this morning and which may well be mere matters of

rumour and conjecture. I understand that the positions of Australian public servants transferring to the Northern Territory Public Service and back to the Australian Public Service are protected by statute and regulation. I would think that what the member for Arnhem has said is a mere matter of rumour and conjecture without foundation in fact.

139 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr ROBERTSON

Nightcliff Primary School is on the civil works program for tenders to be called in February. Is it a fact that no work is to be commenced and no money expended before the end of this financial year? This would mean that the Nightcliff Primary School has slipped off the program and will not be ready for occupancy at the beginning of the school year of 1979.

ANSWER

I will undertake to provide an answer later in these sittings.

140 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr ROBERTSON

In his capacity as a member of the Further Education Council, will he inform the House when the council will next meet and advise us of the functions of that council?

ANSWER

I won't take the House's time up with a statement of responsibilities of the Further Education Council other than to say that the Majority Leader, in moving the motion of my appointment to that organisation, did indicate its principal roles last week. It is basically an advisory body to the Minister for Education and it will plan the future of post compulsory education in the Northern Territory, including such matters as a practical rural college at Katherine. The committee last met on Friday. It is not proposed now that it should meet until about next February. It has formalised a detailed study of further education in Central Australia and it is currently working on the exact structure of post compulsory education throughout the Northern Territory. The present minister has indicated quite clearly that he will be very sympathetic to the advice of the Further Education Council. In fact, this particular minister is one of the best with whom we have dealings. The organisation is comprised of three members. It has the Director of Education of the Northern Territory, Dr Eedle, the Principal of the Darwin Community College, Mr Flint, and myself as its members.

141 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is he aware that some officers of the Australian Public Service whose positions are to be transferred to the Northern Territory Public Service on 1 January next year have been advised that, if they decline to transfer to the NTPS, they will no longer be employed by either the APS or the NTPS from the date of the transfer of their positions?

ANSWER

In answering the question, which appears to be part of a concerted campaign this morning by the Opposition to undermine the confidence of the public service in the Northern Territory, I would say this: that I am not aware of any such proposal. I do not think the question does him a great deal of credit. I will certainly ascertain the facts in relation to this matter and I propose making a statement to this House in relation to these aspects of the public service tomorrow morning.

142 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr STEELE

Is there still only one officer engaged in animal quarantine in Darwin at present and, if so, what steps has he taken to ensure that other services can be provided to back up this man?

ANSWER

I can confirm that there is only one quarantine officer employed through the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch. I have had discussions with officers of that branch but I have not yet taken it up at a ministerial level. Because of the whole range of quarantine and disease control problems that we are currently faced with due to the peaceful invasion of our northern shores, these matters have been taken up directly by the Majority Leader with the Prime Minister.

143 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

I understand that there has been some negotiation between the council, the Darwin Community College and the Minister for the Northern Territory about provision of additional areas of land adjacent to the college to meet present and future building needs. What stage has been reached in these negotiations, particularly in respect to a decision on whether any land will be available? No provision for such development is apparent in the present Darwin Town Plan. Would he make urgent representation to the Minister for the Northern Territory to ensure that the appropriate allocations of land west and north of the present site will be made available as a matter of urgency so that the council may proceed with its planning to meet the future post-secondary needs of the Northern Territory community?

ANSWER

I have been advised by the Department of the Northern Territory that negotiations between the Darwin Community College and the Darwin Reconstruction Commission last year for adjoining land were hampered by the existence of an adjoining subdivision lease. The Minister for the Northern Territory advised the Chairman of the Darwin Community College in October 1976 of this issue and its implications. The Minister for the Northern Territory is not in a position to allocate land already alienated and alternative split campus sites are still available. If the land in the subdivision lease does become available, it has been indicated by the minister that he will immediately inform Senator Carrick on the matter. This would then allow the Darwin Community College to make its approach and justify a further land allocation. In regard to the zoning of this block, the land adjoining the Darwin Community College is a lease already

proposed for urban development, There have been negotiations going on for a very long time under both federal governments, as a matter of fact since the cyclone, over what I would call the mess at Brinkin - a subdivision which was proposed and has never been proceeded with - and I think it is a shame that after nearly three years of so-called negotiations between governments and the company concerned, no solution has been found to this matter, I believe that had land been the subject of transfer to this Assembly at a much earlier date than is proposed, the matter would have been well resolved. Unless there are some breakthroughs in these negotiations so that the future expansion of the Darwin Community College onto that site can be resolved, well then, the matter may well have to wait until the handling of land is transferred to this Assembly, I can assure members that a decision and a solution to the problem would be found very quickly.

144 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

My question to the Majority Leader is the last stanza to the symphony of the Opposition. What steps will the Majority Leader take to ensure that summary dismissals will not occur amongst public servants upon the transfer of certain functions on 1 January and 1 July next year? Specifically, I ask this question in relation to day labour, employed by the Department of Construction and the Department of the Northern Territory.

ANSWER

May I say that it certainly was the last stanza in what I would call the subversive symphony coming from the Opposition this morning - an attempt to subvert and undermine the confidence of the public service. The public service knows that its rights and entitlements to employment are protected by statute. I can assure this House unequivocally that there will be no summary dismissals from the Northern Territory Public Service.

145 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

As he is aware, the Corporation of the City of Darwin is presently spreading top soil on nature strips for adjoining leaseholders, hopefully, to plant with grass, trees and shrubs, etc. Unfortunately, on certain blocks in my electorate at least there is no leaseholder. I am talking of blocks where there are derelict Housing Commission homes, blocks without occupants. Who will accept the responsibility for planting in these circumstances?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have no idea who will accept responsibility of these blocks. I have noticed that there are a number of blocks in addition to housing blocks where the city council is spreading soil on the footpath with the expectation perhaps that someone is going to plant grass on them and water them, including footpaths past schools and past existing city council parks. I suggest that if the question is placed on notice for the member concerned with local government affairs, he may be able to seek an answer from the Corporation who really should be the people to answer this.

146 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can he say whether all departments and sections to be transferred to the Northern Territory Public Service on 1 January 1978 have fully staffed their establishments? If not, how many vacant positions will be transferred to the Northern Territory Public Service on 1 January 1978? How many vacant positions at branch head level will be transferred to the Northern Territory Public Service on 1 January 1978?

ANSWER

I ask that the question be placed on notice. She is asking for a great number of statistics which I obviously do not have to hand at the moment. May I say that I regard the series of questions asked by the Opposition this morning as base electioneering and an attempt to alarm civil servants in this Territory. I reiterate that the rights of civil servants are protected by statute and regulations and those rights are honoured and respected by me. Far from self-government meaning a lack of employment opportunities in government service, I can assure this House that, at the present time, there are before the Northern Territory Public Service Commissioner applications to create no less than 700 additional positions in the Northern Territory Public Service.

147 Mr DONDAS to Mr STEELE

What initiatives has the Department of Transport taken to construct an overpass or footbridge near the Rapid Creek Shopping Centre on Trower Road?

ANSWER

I have already said that I would make approaches to the Department of Northern Territory to examine its budget and identify spending areas by which we could usefully satisfy some of the community's requirements in regard to footbridges, We have made that identification and we have passed our thoughts to the Minister for the Northern Territory. There has been some correspondence between the Minister for the Northern Territory and the DRC. I saw the Minister for the Northern Territory yesterday and I am hopeful of getting a satisfactory reply on this matter in the very near future.

148 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

I ask about the "Life. Be in it" program which we have seen advertisements about on television. Did the previous executive make a commitment to involve the Northern Territory in this program which I understand originated in Victoria and, if so, what action is being taken to involve the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The previous executive never made any commitment but I have. I have seconded to my Department of Local Government, a senior recreation officer of the YMCA for a period of 12 months. He is heading up the "Life. Be in it" program for the Northern Territory, The Majority Party will involve itself very extensively in this very worthwhile program.

149 Mr DOOLAN to Mr TUXWORTH

When may I expect a reply to at least some of the questions raised by Mr Jack Langley of Mount Wells and forwarded to the honourable member by me on 6 October last? When can I expect a reply to the questions raised by the Northern Territory Miners and Prospectors Association and forwarded to the honourable member on 10 November last?

ANSWER

The points the honourable member raised with me were the prerogative of the Northern Territory Mines Branch and I have sent his correspondence relating to those matters to the Mines Branch for a reply. The honourable member can be assured that the day I have a reply, he will get one from me.

155 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

He has indicated that he is making representations to the Prime Minister as the need arises regarding the refugees presently arriving in Northern Territory waters. Following a news item this morning that one group has landed on the northern coastline, can he indicate if he has received from the Prime Minister any assurance that surveillance will be increased so that quarantine and other facilities which may be needed on the coast can be provided?

ANSWER

I did in fact last week make representations in the form of a long telegram to the Prime Minister asking that surveillance procedures be stepped up. I understand that two Orion reconnaissance aircraft have now been based in Darwin. In addition, I asked the Prime Minister to arrange for all interested departments, including the Northern Territory departments, to be brought together to make the necessary arrangements for the carrying out of quarantine and health procedures in the event of these refugee boats landing at some isolated point of the coast line. In fact, a senior member of the Department of Immigration arrived in Darwin on Tuesday afternoon and I believe that, since then, he has had discussions with representatives of all local departments involved. We are particularly interested from the point of view of police and wildlife rangers. I understand that steps will be taken as a matter of urgency to implement the measures of agreement reached between these various officials. I am certainly very much aware of this problem and it is causing me great concern. I do think that I should make it plain that personally I have no opposition to Australia taking into this country as many refugees as it can reasonably accommodate. However, I do believe that these refugees should be brought to Australia through the normal processes. The best way to facilitate this would be for a taskforce to be organised as a matter of urgency and sent to Southeast Asia to process the people whom we are going to take. We would then be in a position to take a rather more determined stand against any unauthorised persons seeking entry.

156 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr EVERINGHAM

What security of tenure do the Aboriginals around Knuckeys Lagoon have and what acreage is involved in view of the proposed expenditure of $80,000 in this area?

ANSWER

The Aboriginal people living in the vicinity of Knuckeys Lagoon have no security of legal tenure at this stage. Prior to the passing of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1976, these people entered an Aboriginal land claim to the interim Land Commissioner for land in the area and this claim was heard, though the recommendations of the interim Land Commissioner are not available to me. After the passing of the act, the land in question, because it is urban land, could no longer be the subject of an Aboriginal land claim. It became subject to what is known as a needs application for land which would be dealt with by the Department of Northern Territory under the normal land administration arrangements. Such an application for about 200 acres of vacant Crown land in the area on which these people are now camped was made to the Department of Northern Territory. Advise received by

the Aboriginal Development Foundation and the Knuckeys Lagoon Aborigines is that a decision on the application would not be made for at least 12 months as there are policy implications in respect of the future expansion of Darwin. Funds have been and apparently will continue to be expended on camp improvements for these people. This expenditure is of the order of $10,000 per annum and provides for basic improvements.

157 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr PERRON

Can he say whether inequities arise from the policy of minimum guarantees for rural extensions to the electricity system? Has he seen a legal opinion which suggests the removal of these inequities? Is he considering taking action to amend the ordinance to remedy the situation?

ANSWER

Certainly, I am aware of inequities in the minimum guarantee system that applies to mainly rural areas in the Northern Territory for the supply of electricity. I have not seen any legal opinion which suggests that the system be dropped. Certainly, we are working on legislation to completely replace the legislation under which these arrangements are made at the moment. This will be in the next year's legislation to set up the electricity commission.

158 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

Is it true that the Building Board has not been issuing any building permits for the past two weeks because of a misunderstanding between the Town Planning Board and the Darwin Reconstruction Commission?

ANSWER

This matter has caused me some concern over the last few days since I learned that the processing of applications for development by the town planning section, as agents for the Darwin Reconstruction Commission, has been delayed somewhat. One of the prime causes has been the great amount of work that is involved in completing all the necessary arrangements after the display of the Darwin Reconstruction Plan, the processing of objections that were received to that plan and the preparation of information to be sent to the Minister for the Northern Territory. This work is nearing finality at the present time and I am advised that processing of applications through the town planning section has recommenced. The non-contentious applications, as far as zones are concerned, are being held for presentation to the Darwin Reconstruction Commission at its next meeting on 16 December. It has been normal practice in the past that any contentious applications whatsoever in matters relating to town planning are referred to the Darwin Reconstruction Commission for a hearing and a decision. So I am pleased to say that the blockage which has existed over the past couple of weeks, I understand, is being cleared at the present time.

159 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

Have undertakings been given to uranium producers in the Northern Territory to supply power to the uranium province? If so, what steps has he taken to protect the interests of consumers in the event of the project being halted in mid-stream?

ANSWER

The very limited information I have on this subject is that such an offer has not been made.

160 Mr HARRIS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is the honourable member aware of a meeting to be held of all interested parties in Darwin to discuss the drainage of both Leanyer and Marrara swamps? The parties that will be attending are the Friends of the Earth, the Citizens Advisory Council and the Environmental Council.

ANSWER

That would sound to me to be an unholy alliance. I am not aware of the parties that are involved in such a meeting but I believe there is a meeting to be held next Monday by both the Department of Housing and the Department of Construction, and a second one on the same afternoon to be open to departmental officers from Health and Construction to discuss with interested members of the public concern over the Leanyer and Marrara swamp areas. I believe that Dr, Quinn, who is in charge of environmental medicine at the hospital, will be attending on behalf of the Department of Health and this is an ideal opportunity for members of this House and members of the public to meet with the committee to discuss what needs to be done in relation to the draining of the swamp and solving the problem.

161 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

Is it the Majority Party's policy that Northern Territory electricity rates will be no more than coastal north Queensland rates?

ANSWER

Yes.

162 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr ROBERTSON

Regarding the spreading of topsoil on nature strips and footpaths by the Corporation of the City of Darwin, who will assume responsibility for grassing, watering and tending those strips where there is no occupant or tenant of an adjoining property?

ANSWER

I am advised by the deputy Town Clerk that the council has undertaken that responsibility. It will continue to look after nature strips outside of vacant blocks and will attend, more particularly, to a number of corner footpaths which are overgrown and becoming a traffic hazard.

163 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr STEELE

When will the tropospheric scatter communication system be installed at Groote Eylandt to tie in with the Nhulunbuy exchange? How many channels will be used? What services will be added other than the telephone? When will this system come into operation?

ANSWER

The Gove-Groote Eylandt tropospheric system is to be installed by BHP as a privately constructed and owned system. It has to meet Australian Telecom standards and specifications. It is to be a 12 channel system and, as such, will have no TV transmission capabilities. The projected date of completion is March 1978. I have asked for further information on access to the system by others than BHP.

164 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr ROBERTSON

Can he advise when construction of the new Nightcliff Primary School, as programmed in the budget, is likely to commence and if it is expected that the school will be ready for occupancy at the beginning of the 1979 school year?

ANSWER

My answer is based on information given me by the department, and I note the honourable member is always very careful to point out that I have liaison responsibilities for education, so the information I have is not of my own knowledge but that given to me by the department. The program is still current and they anticipate commencing construction in May 1978, with tenders being called on time in February 1978.

The projected time for construction, according to the Department of Construction advice, would be about 52 weeks. The method of construction which is going to be used is very similar to that which was used at the Berrimah gaol, which is the new engineering technique of modular construction. Using that particular technique of construction, they anticipate that there is a very good chance of the time period for construction being somewhat less than 52 weeks. Indeed, if the firm - whoever gets that contract - does as well as those who are building the Berrimah gaol, then it will certainly be ahead of schedule. If those things occurs, then it will be available for occupancy by students within the first term of 1979.

165 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

Can he advise the current position concerning the ban on cattle movements within Central Australia or out of Central Australia?

ANSWER

The current position is very bad for the Northern Territory. The South Australian government has declined to accept cattle from Central Australia although, of course, there is no midge carrying the virus existing in Central Australia. The Queensland government, although it has found the same insect in its own territory, has decided to place a ban on Territory cattle. The Western Australian government is in a more ludicrous situation in that the boundaries of stations in the same regional or geographical area, the same rainfall-type area, are separated by three strands of barbed wire and the movement of cattle through that barbed wire to the next place is prohibited.

I think the situation is getting out of hand. I think it is a hoax.

I think it is about time that someone came clean on this particular matter. I believe that Victoria and New South Wales have threatened Queensland and South Australia, and said if you accept Northern Territory cattle, we will not accept your cattle. I think it is about time the federal Minister for Primary Industry stepped in. At the present moment we are denied access to northern markets because of this stupid hoax situation.

166 Mr COLLINS to Mr PERRON

What steps have been taken to overcome staff shortages, high turnover of staff, training deficiencies and the lack of reference drawings and schematic diagrams at the Stokes Hill Power Station?

ANSWER

I cannot supply a detailed answer to that question just off the top of my head. I know there has been some action to alleviate some of the shortages in the day-labour area by allowing local people to have the authority to recruit within certain levels, whereas this was formerly prohibited under an absolutely absurd arrangement which existed up until quite recently. However, if he would like to place that question on notice, I am sure we could supply a more detailed answer.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

167 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH: The member for Arnhem asked me in the adjournment debate last Wednesday who wrote my previous speech. It implied, to my way of thinking, that my husband did. The answer to the honourable member's question is that I wrote my speech. I am very disturbed at such typical male chauvinism, exhibited by a member of the Opposition, because they would all have us believe they are in the forefront of believing equal rights, equal opportunity and equal consideration should be extended ....

Mr ISAACS: A point of order, Mr Speaker! As I understand it, question time is for questions to executive members or to members who have a certain responsibility in the House. The member for Tiwi can make a statement on this matter but now is not the appropriate time.

Mr SPEAKER: I am not quite clear on this particular point but standing order 91 says:

> *Questions may be put to a Member, not being an Executive Member, relating to any bill, motion or other public matter connected with the business of the Assembly, of which the Member has charge.*

I think this is a border-line case where a question was asked of the honourable member. She had leave and I think she has completed her answer. Therefore, my ruling is that the member was out of order.

168 Mr HARRIS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Has an agreement been reached with the minister with regard to the finalisation of the handover of the Department of the Northern Territory functions to the local executive?

ANSWER

I understand from the Minister for the Northern Territory that a cabinet decision was taken some little time ago that all functions of the Department of the Northern Territory would be handed over to the local executive as at 1 July 1978. I understand the term "all functions" includes the functions of land and mining.

169 Mr DOOLAN to Mr PERRON

Have tenders been called for a new workshop and stores complex at Stokes Hill Power Station? If so, to what stage has work proceeded? If tenders have not been called, why not?

ANSWER

I know that the workshop and stores complex is on the current year's works program but I have no idea of the stage it has reached. I ask him to place the question on notice.

170 Mr VALE to Mr EVERINGHAM

My question is asked on behalf of the member for Elsey. What steps are being taken to ensure that surveillance of foreign fishing vessels in Australian waters is being maintained, having regard to the strain placed on Navy resources in their efforts to ensure early detection of refugee vessels?

ANSWER

May I say, Mr Speaker, that you appear to be an oracle because I have in front of me a report from the Northern Territory News of 31 March 1976 where you were reported as saying: "I anticipate that they will come from the north, some thousands of family groups in an armada of fishing vessels for a peaceful invasion of northern Australia". This is what is happening at the moment, Mr Speaker. Your gift of prescience has been greater than that granted to the rest of us. It is my intention - and I am maintaining pressure daily - to see that our surveillance facilities are increased. In fact, I am also taking the opportunity to pressure the federal government to step up our defence capability in northern Australia. I really consider our defence capability here to be pathetic. This has really shown this up. We now must see the fruit of years of neglect of our defence forces and cuts in defence spending. There is very little that Australia could do if it were really menaced by other than a peaceful invasion.

171 Mr PERKINS to Mr PERRON

Will he make available to the Assembly the investigation into the accounting procedures of the electricity service carried out in the last year?

ANSWER

I am not sure what document the honourable member is referring to. There was an inquiry into the electricity system in the Northern Territory and that was tabled in this House and made quite public. I assume that he is referring to a ministerial inquiry commissioned in 1976 to report on the financial aspects of the electricity supply in

the Northern Territory. This was a completely internal document; it was a departmental report to a federal minister and is certainly not available for tabling in this House.

172 Mr HARRIS to Mr TUXWORTH

In a press statement, the Minister for Health recently announced the setting up of a national pathology accreditation advisory council, Will this council operate in the Northern Territory and is there a need for this type of council?

ANSWER

I would say that there is a most definite need throughout Australia for this type of council. This has been proved by the rip-off that has been carried out by pathology agencies operating throughout Australia. This is the response that the Minister for Health has taken. The council will be set up both on a federal and state level to operate in tandem with each other. It would be necessary for the Northern Territory to introduce complementary legislation for it to have its own council. At the moment, our pathology services are carried out by the Department of Health in the Northern Territory. There are no private operators in the field and, while it would be essential for us to have legislation to set up a council to keep a watchful eye on private operators, legislation will not be necessary until they appear on the scene.

173 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

Has the timetable for the complete undergrounding of the electricity distribution system been established? If so, what is it? Has the Majority Party a policy that all cables must be underground?

ANSWER

I ask that the question be placed on notice.

174 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TUXWORTH

Last week, I asked about the actions of sand miners operating in Howard swamp area. He gave valuable information in his reply but it was mainly to do with outstanding lease applications. What action has been taken to stop sand miners operating quite illegally in areas outside their lease? If no action is being taken, why not?

Mr SPEAKER: I direct your notice to standing order 94 which says that questions fully answered cannot be renewed. Do you claim that the question was not fully answered?

Mrs LAWRIE: My point is that the question was not answered at all. Other information was given but no answer was given to my specific query.

Mr TUXWORTH: I stated in the reply, and the honourable member may correct me if I am wrong, that I did not have the specific information that she requested on that particular area. and that it was my intention to get that and also some information relating to questions that came from the honourable member for Tiwi. I sent the request to the department and, as soon as I have a reply, I will answer the honourable member's question in writing.

175 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr PERRON

I refer to his reply to my question about when the town planning chief would come back to work in the Northern Territory. The reply disturbed me greatly. I have been advised that he will not return to Darwin and that he has been transferred to the list of unattached officers. Everyone knows that it takes 12 to 18 months to fill a position of this nature.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I direct that the question be placed on notice.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

176 Mr PERRON: The Leader of the Opposition asked if I could inform this Assembly what mechanism was used to give liquidity to the Home Finance Trustee in October this year. I have been advised that, in October, the Northern Territory Housing Commission agreed to invest $500,000 in the scheme at an interest rate of 9.5%. In addition to these dealings, the Treasurer's concurrence was received for the transfer of $1m from the 6% concessional home loan scheme for investment in the $15,000 scheme. This transfer has been made possible by the expected tapering off of demand within the 6% scheme.

177 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr ROBERTSON

Can he advise whether the 400-seat theatre has been reinstated in the proposal to build Dripstone High School?

ANSWER

I do not know whether it is a 400-seat theatre; I think it is in the order of 300. The answer is that it has not been reinstated. I think that it is quite miserable that it has not been. I would point out to the House that the original cost estimate for that complex, inclusive of the theatre, is such that the tender price as presently exists including the theatre would be less than their own estimates. There is absolutely no reason whatsoever why that theatre cannot be incorporated in the new school. Indeed, it can be very easily incorporated because of its detached nature. As far as I am concerned, all the federal departments, including the Department of Education, have no excuse whatsoever for not providing that facility to the northern suburbs. I am continuing to apply as much pressure as I possibly can to have it reinstated.

178 Mr COLLINS to Mr ROBERTSON

I direct my question to the Executive Member for Community and Social Development, in his liaison role with the Department of Education. Is it a fact that, as claimed by Senator Kilgariff in a news report, the standard of education facilities in the Northern Territory is higher than all states and possibly better than most overseas countries?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Arnhem is calling for an opinion; that is not allowed under standing order 92.

192 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr STEELE

What is the purchase price of the NADC property at Willeroo-Scotts Creek?

ANSWER

The purchase price of the Willeroo project will be built into the final arrangements to be decided in February of next year. We are currently looking at a purchase price of around $1.15m. This is yet to be finalised and it is a bit early for us to make a statement about the purchase.

193 Mr HARRIS to Mr ROBERTSON

I refer to cyclone educational broadcasts. Are broadcasts being made in foreign languages at this time, what is the frequency of these broadcasts and, if no broadcasts are being made, when will they commence?

ANSWER

In relation to foreign language broadcasts, the answer is no. The Good Neighbour Council is currently working with the ABC to prepare tapes for educating ethnic groups in Darwin. The languages concerned are Greek, Italian, Spanish, Yugoslav, Portuguese, French, German and Hukka Chinese. It will probably involve a continuous 20 minute broadcast on a weekly basis, as has been done in the past. Broadcasts certainly have commenced because all members will no doubt have heard the rather striking sound used to draw people's attention to it. These are currently being conducted in the English language.

194 Mr COLLINS to Mr STEELE

Under what authority is the Northern Territory executive purchasing the Willeroo-Scotts Creek properties?

ANSWER

The position is that the Northern Territory executive has decided to support farmers going into an agricultural project. It is early days as far as the final arrangements are concerned and we will set up a management scheme under statute. That will not happen until next year when all the arrangements have been decided.

195 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr TUXWORTH

Why doesn't the Forestry Branch, in a similar way to forestry commissions in the states, have a policy to sell to rural agricultural and pastoral people shrubs and trees in large quantities, for their use and not for resale?

ANSWER

It is my understanding that the Northern Territory Forestry Branch does in fact have a policy of supplying trees, plants and shrubs to any organisation or body that needs them. However, the branch is not in direct competition with people in private enterprise and sales that

would normally compete with private enterprise are carried out on a basis of the branch's ability to supply produce from time to time.

196 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TUXWORTH

I ask for the third time this sittings. if it is a fact that sand miners operating in the Howard Swamps area are extending beyond their lease boundaries, why has this practice not been stopped by the Mines Branch? This is the same question I have asked in three different ways.

ANSWER

I take the honourable member's point that it is the same question in three different ways and she has been very patient with me. However, on Friday last I endeavoured to go out and have a look at the area mentioned by the honourable member, which covers a great part of the 32-mile acquisition area that is being abused by sand miners. There is no doubt in my mind - indeed it is a fact of life - that there is quite a deal of illegal mining going on in the area mentioned by the honourable member and, in fact, in many other parts of this 32-mile acquisition area. The reason that the Mines Branch has not been policing the area is that, firstly, it does not have the staff to handle the amount of investigation that is needed. There is no doubt in my mind that we would need a team of two or three men working round the clock to be able to survey the area in the manner that is needed to stop illegal mining. As a further response to the honourable member's concern, it is my intention to introduce this morning a bill that may deter people a little from carrying out these illegal activities.

197 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

Is NADC, the owner of Willeroo, in debt to approximately $18m? Can he give us an assurance that, if it proceeds, the project will be overseen by experts and not party hacks?

ANSWER

I am delighted to assure him that it won't be overseen by party hacks. I can't answer the first part of his question. I don't know how much NADC owes or is owed through Willeroo. I think our proposition is something that the Labor Party would have liked to have done had they been in office; it is an entrepreneurial approach to agriculture as mentioned by Mr Waters in September. We will ensure that the correct legal arrangements are undertaken and a proper financial agreement signed. There is no way in the world that we can do any more than that. We will set it up under statute in February if all these things are done.

198 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr TUXWORTH

What is happening to the Woodcutters lead-zinc ore body near Batchelor in view of the acclaim granted to its discovery in the early 1960s?

ANSWER

The Woodcutters project was established by the Bureau of Mineral Resources in the early 1960s and was subsequently tendered to private

enterprise for further investigation and development. A great deal of investigatory work has been carried out by the principals who are the same people involved in the Ranger uranium deposits. There are several further factors to be determined. One is the metallurgical problem that is involved and another is the extent of the ore body. The latter problem is holding up further exploration at the moment. The company would like to put down several exploratory holes on an area that is currently reserved as a catchment area for the Darwin River Dam. Because of the nature of the catchment area reserve, it is not possible for them to explore as they would on any other area. A plan is currently being drawn up by the environmental section, the wildlife section and the Mines Branch staff to formalise a plan of management purely for the exploration stage. It is important to point out that world metal prices will be the criterion that will determine whether this particular project proceeds. However, before the company gets to that stage, it must determine the size of the body. It could well be that the exploratory holes the company wishes to put down in the reserve will prove that the body is not of significant size as to warrant further development. Until that has been established, the program is in abeyance.

199 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr STEELE

Can he inform the House how the money is to be raised to purchase the property known as Willeroo?

ANSWER

My patience is wearing fairly thin because, in my reply to the first question on the subject of Willeroo, I indicated we would make a statement at a later stage. Just trying to be helpful, which is my usual approach, I will try to patiently explain to the honourable member for Sanderson that the financial arrangement is still to be properly finalised in February. However, what we would attempt to do is to rearrange the mortgage structure from one outfit to another outfit. We will make a statement on this at a later stage.

200 Mr DONDAS to Mr STEELE

In light of the Opposition's number of questions on Willeroo, I will also ask one on Willeroo. If negotiations are successful in that the Northern Territory executive purchases Willeroo, can the executive member advise me how many people would the project employ?

ANSWER

It is not exactly certain but we would wish that several farmers could be established there in the first year or so of the operation of the project. We expect that we would be able to place young people in employment there in training projects. I will have to ask that any further questions on Willeroo be placed on notice.

201 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it true that the reclamation work to be carried out at the Rum Jungle mine at Batchelor will cost in the vicinity of $14 million?

ANSWER

I have no information available to me to suggest that the reclamation

work will cost $14 million on it. I would, however, point out to the honourable member that the government has accepted the liability for this work at Rum Jungle and in the Finness River areas for which it was directly responsible in the early 1950s and, to this end, has provided $300,000 in this year's budget for restoration work to begin. I believe a similar amount of money will be provided each year until the restoration work is completed. As to the $14 million, I just could not comment.

202 Mr OLIVER to Mr TUXWORTH

It has come to my notice that south of and including Tennant Creek there is no resident explosives inspector. In view of the mining activities at Tennant Creek and construction work generally, has any consideration been given to appointing an explosives inspector in the southern region?

ANSWER

My understanding is that officers of the Mines Branch who carry out machinery inspections and mine inspections on mining operations anywhere in the Territory also have vested in them the control of matters that are provided for in the Explosives Ordinance. I am aware, too, that the control of explosives in civil operations such as blowing trenches for sewerage mains is an area that falls within the jurisdiction of the Commercial and Industrial Affairs Branch of the Department of the Northern Territory and while I could not comment on how that branch covers its particular area, I am aware that the Mines Branch side of it is fully catered for.

203 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

Following on from his reply to my question on notice regarding Beatrice Hill, could he tell me what are the terms of occupation of Professor Harry Messell at the Beatrice Hill Research Station and how long will his occupation last?

ANSWER

I am unable to provide that information off the top of my head. I will have to search out the information and provide it for the honourable member later in the day.

204 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

How many vets are there per 100,000 cattle in the Northern Territory, compared to the states? Why is the Northern Territory rural news magazine now printed in Brisbane, and why has this magazine been so delayed in recent months?

ANSWER

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

205 Mr OLIVER to Mr PERRON

I believe the Lands Branch is acutely short of pastoral inspectors. In view of the fact that early this year some 29 applicants, including eight from the Northern Territory, were interviewed and none selected,

despite the fact that some of the Northern Territory applicants appeared to be eminently suited for the position, my question is what qualifications are now required by the Lands Branch to satisfy its requirements in selecting a pastoral inspector?

ANSWER

I have been advised on this matter by the Lands Branch that earlier this year there were three positions advertised for pastoral inspectors, one senior inspector and two ordinary inspectors. There were eight applicants for the senior position and 21 applicants for the ordinary positions. The senior inspector was appointed; one of the ordinary inspectors has been appointed and will be gazetted on the 15th of this month. There is still one position vacant for an ordinary inspector and applicants are currently being interviewed. The qualifications required by the branch for these positions are merely a wide experience in and knowledge of the pastoral industry, rural land valuation and survey ability, and an ability to prepare plans and reports.

206 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

I ask him to be a little more patient as the matter does have some notoriety in the community. In view of his statement about legislation being passed in February regarding the Willeroo-Scotts Creek purchase, can he inform the Assembly what has occurred by way of investigation to date, has any money been spent in travel or otherwise to investigate the proposed purchase and under what authority was the money spent?

ANSWER

I ask him to place the question on notice.

207 Mr HARRIS to Mr PERRON

I refer to government-owned blocks in the Port Darwin district on which residences were damaged and are now an eyesore reducing the value of privately-owned blocks in the area. Will the government say when they are going to rebuild on these areas and, if not, what are they going to do with them to maintain the equity of the private landholders?

ANSWER

The question relates to vacant land in the Port Darwin area which has not been built on to date. If he supplies me with specific lot numbers, I will endeavour to establish that they are in fact still government blocks. I will also establish whether the government intends to build upon those particular blocks or possibly sell them in the near future. I believe a number of government-owned vacant lots throughout Darwin will be sold in the foreseeable future. There are many private lots scattered around Darwin which have been sold since the cyclone and whose covenants are not due to be commenced until April 1978. Many of these blocks will remain in a fairly untidy state until such time as the owner is required to commence complying with the covenants.

208 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr PERRON

Is he aware that I have issued a challenge to him to debate the new Town Planning Ordinance with him tonight at Kentish Hall in Wells Creek Road? If he is aware of that fact, can he indicate whether he accepts that challenge?

ANSWER

The member for Sanderson has been waffling in the press about a variety of matters and has given general misrepresentations as far as the recent town planning amendments are concerned. She has called a public meeting of her own on Thursday night at the Howard Springs School. I presume that, as a member of the public, I would be welcome and she is certainly welcome to come along to me to ask questions. The honourable member has had an opportunity in this House to debate the legislation. She spoke at some length on an amendment to the second-reading and then the Opposition failed to take up further debate on the second-reading speech itself after the amendment was defeated. It seemed quite obvious to me that honourable members opposite had talked themselves out on this matter.

209 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr TUXWORTH

I ask about the boats from Asia which are presently located among the mangroves in East Arm near the quarantine station. Is it a fact that they are deteriorating in their present situation? How long does he anticipate they will be left there, and does he know if they will be available for sale at some future time?

ANSWER

Being a desert man and not a seaside man, I am not terribly well up on how boats would last in that condition, sitting on mud flats, but my understanding is that any boat left sitting in the water deteriorates. The honourable member's question, as to whether the boats will be disposed of, is one that I cannot answer other than to say that, from my experience in the fisheries section, boats that were seized in that particular area were very difficult to dispose of because they did not measure up to Australian standards. I would think this situation would also apply to these boats.

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PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

Questions are printed in numerical order

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FROM 22 NOVEMBER 1977

58 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

With reference to the legal opinion being prepared for the trustees of the Darwin Cyclone Tracy Relief Trust Fund by Mr Ian Barker, QC -

What were the instructions given to Mr Barker by the trustees; and

from what source is Mr Barker to be paid for this opinion and under what authority?

64 Mr VALE to Mr EVERINGHAM

In respect of each of the following organisations -

1. Central Australian Aboriginal Medical Service;

2. Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service;

3. Central Australian Aborigines Congress; and

4. Aboriginal Hostels Ltd, Alice Springs -

   (a) what number of persons are employed;

   (b) what are the designations, remuneration received and other employment benefits of employees;

   (c) who is responsible for the hiring and firing of employees;

   (d) are the organisations' financial records and expenditure subject to audit and, if so, what are the details of such requirements; and

   (e) are vehicle records and logbooks kept?

FROM 29 NOVEMBER 1977

92 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

1. Why is the notice in Gazette No. 46, 18 November 1977, appointing the Territory Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council over the signature of the Administrator, and not the executive member as required in the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Ordinance?

2. What are the qualifications of each of the members of the council with respect to section 80(8) of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Ordinance?

3. Who were the unsuccessful candidates to the advisory council and what were their qualifications with respect to section 80(3)?

FROM 6 DECEMBER 1977

151 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is it a fact that Aboriginals living in humpies in the NT will be required to pay $2.00 a fortnight for garbage collection and maintenance of parks and gardens as from January 1978?

Is it a fact that Aboriginals living in stage 1 houses will be required to pay $5.00 a fortnight for such services under proposed new scales?

Is it a fact that Aboriginals living in stage 3 houses will be required to pay $35.00 a fortnight for rent as compared with $13.00 a fortnight, as from January next year?

FROM 28 FEBRUARY 1978

181 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

When will the third bore at Batchelor be equipped with a dual diesel/electric pump?

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 in travel or otherwise to investigate the proposed purchase?

3. If money has been spent on travel or otherwise, on what authority was the money spent?

220 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

1. Has approval been given, and if so when, for the erection of five town houses on Lot 1776, Banyan Street, Darwin?

2. Have objections been lodged to the zoning of Lot 1776, Town of Darwin, as R2 in the Darwin Town Plan?

3. If these objections are upheld, will the building be allowed to proceed?

4. Is the sewerage system in the area presently overloaded, and does it occasionally overflow?

5. What steps are being taken to upgrade the sewerage system in the area, in view of the zoning of the area for medium density housing in the Darwin Town Plan?

221 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

With reference to moneys invested by the Northern Territory Housing Commission in 1977 -

(a) where was the money invested, for what periods of time and at what rate of interest; and

(b) how much was loaned to the Home Finance Trustee, for what period of time and at what interest rate?

222 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

How much, in total, was paid by the Australian government to employers of apprentices in the Northern Territory to cover days lost due to school in the financial year 1976-77?

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 subject of public objection?

224 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr EVERINGHAM

(a) Were the establishments of all branches and sections of Australian Public Service departments that were transferred to the Northern Territory Public Service on 1 January 1978 fully staffed on 1 January 1978?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is "no", how many vacant positions were transferred from the Australian Public Service to the Northern Territory Public Service on 1 January 1978?

FROM 7 MARCH 1978

249 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

In the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch in the Top End:

1. How many veterinary officers are available to help small farmers?

2. Briefly what are the complete additional areas of concern of these veterinary officers?

3. How many stock inspectors are available for help for small farmers?

4. How many extension officers are there, whose main work is to help and give field advice in situ to small farmers?

5. In what specific fields do these extension officers operate?

6. What are the future plans of the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch field extension officers to actively encourage the small animal and crop landholders to realise their full potential to build a stable lace of agricultural production for the undoubted benefit of all of us in the Northern Territory?

250 Mr PERKINS to Mr PERRON

Further to my question 190 concerning stage 4 of the Alice Springs Powerhouse, will he advise whether the generating sets to be installed will be

compatible with existing sets and therefore save on tooling up and maintenance costs?

251 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

Further to my question on notice No. 154 concerning the conditions of the road to Uluru National Park, will he explain what steps will be undertaken to upgrade the road to Uluru National Park, given that the term "re-sheet" usually refers to the sealing of the road and given that this road is not sheeted?

252 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

1. (a) What was the nature of the "political and industrial surveillance" which was carried on by Special Branch up to the time of its disbandment?

   (b) How many people and of what rank were in Special Branch at the time of its disbanding?

   (c) Were any files, dossiers, records, memoranda or notes held by Special Branch on private individuals who had not been charged with a criminal offence or were not under investigation for alleged criminal offences? If so, what became of those files, dossiers, records, memoranda or notes at the time of its disbanding?

2. What precise functions of Special Branch were taken over by the Criminal Intelligence Section of the Police Force when Special Branch was disbanded in August 1973? Which duties formerly performed by Special Branch have been added to the work of the Criminal Intelligence Section since August 1973, and at whose instigation?

3. When was the Criminal Intelligence Section of the Police Force created? What duties was it intended to perform? At whose instigation and for what reasons was it created? What duties does it presently perform?

4. Were any members of the Criminal Intelligence Section or any other section of the NT Police Force aware of, present at, or in any way involved in, illegal entries into premises of any organisations, businesses or individuals at any time in 1976 or 1977?

5. What is the present strength of the Criminal Intelligence Section, and what was its strength in August 1973?

6. Since August 1973, have any and how many men or women formerly working in Special Branch commenced or performed duties in the Criminal Intelligence Section?

7. Does the Criminal Intelligence Section compile any information or material on NT residents who are known or believed to be opposed to the Joint Space Defence Research Establishment but who have committed no criminal offence in respect of that opposition?

8. Does the Police Commissioner or do any officers of the NT Police Force have an arrangement for the supply of political or industrial intelligence to any section of the Australian Security Service? If so, what is the basis?

9. What steps has the Majority Leader taken to assure himself that the Police Force does not compile information of a political or industrial

nature on individuals within the NT who have not committed any criminal offence?

10. Have any wiretaps, telephone interceptions or other methods of electronic surveillance or eavesdropping been employed by or records of information so obtained been compiled by or kept by any members of the NT Police Force on any and how many occasions in each of the years since August 1973?

    If so, on each occasion such methods were adopted -

    (a) by whom was the surveillance authorised;

    (b) was the surveillance made on an individual or organisation who was or whose members were suspected of having committed a criminal offence; and

    (c) on how many occasions were criminal charges laid against individuals and what charges were so involved on each such occasion?

11. Has any section of the NT Police Force at any time since August 1973 supplied information of a political or industrial character concerning individual residents or groups within the Northern Territory to any organisations or bodies funded by, or under the authority of, any foreign governments? If so, which organisations, and which foreign governments?

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?

301 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Will he give an undertaking to this House that the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission will not alienate any vacant crown lands to become a national park or reserve until any Aboriginal land claims over such lands are heard according to due processes of law?

300 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Who is on the regular mailing list of the NT executive for press releases?

302 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Why is it that some residents of Wulagi have been waiting for up to 15 months for the installation of private telephones?

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?

304 Mr ISAACS to Mr TUXWORTH

Why is the fully-equipped dental therapy clinic at Wulagi School not in operation?

65 Mr VALE to Mr EVERINGHAM

What is the generating capacity of electricity generators at the Daly River Mission?

What is the peak or maximum demand for electricity at the Daly River Mission?

If the generating capacity is in excess of demand, what modifications, if any, have the generating units had?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in answer to the question:

"There are at present three generators installed at Daly River - two 100 KW units and one 200 KW unit. The generating capacity of the generators is 400 KW.

The peak demand is in the vicinity of 180 KW and the prime generating source is the comparatively new 200 KW generator. The two 100 KW generators provide a standby capacity of 100% generation in the event of any shutdown for maintenance or for other reasons."

67 Mr PERKINS to Mr ROBERTSON

Is he aware that the erection of a demountable primary school building for the Haasts Bluff community has not taken place as proposed for September of this year in the Commonwealth government's New Works Program for 1977-78?

If so, will he advise when the erection of the primary school building is to commence and when it will be ready for use?

ANSWER

1. Tenders were called in September 1977 as programmed.

2. An acceptable tender was received.

3. Estimated completion date is April 1978.

It appears there again exists a confusion between 'tender target date' and 'completion date'.

68 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Has the Majority Party considered the effect on the validity of Northern Territory legislation of Australia's ratification of international treaties and covenants dealing with economic, political and social rights?

Given the undoubted power of the Commonwealth to legislate in the NT, has the Majority Leader received advice that there is a difference in substance between the Commonwealth's power to legislate in the NT (and in the ACT) to put into effect is treaty commitments, and its power under the external affairs power of the Commonwealth Constitution to enforce such legislation on the states?

If so, has the Majority Leader requested a study of NT legislation to see whether there is any conflict between NT ordinances and international

covenants ratified by Australia? In particular, has he requested an examination of whether the present NT Social Welfare Ordinance stands up to international covenants pertaining to racial discrimination and whether existing prison facilities in the NT meet the standards laid down in international covenants and treaties?

ANSWER

Yes.

Advice is hardly necessary as the position is obvious.

Not applicable.

71 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

How much was paid to each member of the Assembly by way of travelling allowance in the 1976-77 financial year?

ANSWER

Travelling allowance paid to each member of the Legislative Assembly during 1976-77:

Miss E.J. Andrew	$ 2,542.00	Mr M.J. Ballantyne	$ 4,537.00
Mr N. Dondas	$ 287.00	Mr P.A.E. Everingham	$ 287.00
Dr G.A. Letts	$11,444.00	Mr J.L.S. MacFarlane	$ 3,178.00
Mr G.E. Manuell	$ 2,199.00	Mr M.B. Perron	$ 377.00
Mr D.L. Pollock	$ 6,513.00	Mr J.M. Robertson	$ 2,114.00
Mr R. Ryan	$ 1,230.00	Mr R.M. Steele	$ 594.50
Mr G.E. Tambling	$ 1,246.00	Mr H. Tungutalum	$ 1,094.00
Mr I.L. Tuxworth	$ 7,494.00	Mr R.W.S. Vale	$ 2,976.00
Mr R.J. Withnall	$ 574.00	Mr R.J. Kentish	Nil
Mrs A.D. Lawrie	Nil		

90 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

Is it a fact that the Beatrice Hill Research Station is to be handed over from the Department of the Northern Territory to Professor Harry Messel of Sydney University to house him and/or his academic staff whilst they are carrying out their radio experiments on our crocodiles?

What is going to happen to the present Department of the Northern Territory staff working and housed there, to all the facilities, laboratories, workshops, equipment and livestock, and to the vital research work on animal and pasture production that has been conducted in this area for a number of years?

How much money has been allocated or will be allocated by the government to Professor Harry Messel, and how much to animal and pasture research in this area?

Who is going to benefit from this research of Professor Harry Messel, the Northern Territory people, the Sydney University or the United States interests that are partially financing this research?

Who decided that crocodile research is more important to the Northern Territory than farming research that is aimed at assisting the farmers and cattlemen in the Top End?

ANSWER

It is not proposed to "hand over" the Beatrice Hill Research Station to the Sydney University. However, the Department of the Northern Territory has been approached to provide accommodation to the research team under the direction of Professor Messel and consideration is being given to sub-leasing two houses and a single men's quarters and amenities block at Beatrice Hill.

The Beatrice Hill Research Station and Coastal Plains Research Station were amalgamated in 1973 and have been operated as a single research station since that time. All the research facilities at Beatrice Hill will remain under the control of the department and all research programs will continue.

An allocation of $50,000 for the 1977-78 financial year was made in the Northern Territory budget to the Sydney University for the research program undertaken by Professor Messel. This amount represents an increase over the previous departmental allocation of $20,000.

Appropriation for research activities at Coastal Plains Research Station for the 1977-78 financial year is $358,754 including expenditure on repairs and maintenance and capital works.

As in the case of all fundamental research it is not possible to predict the ultimate outcome but it is expected that all contributory sources to the program stand to benefit.

91 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr STEELE

Does he intend to introduce legislation to control the use of antibiotics in stock feeds and, if so, when?

ANSWER

No formal approach has yet been made to me for the introduction of such legislation. However, I have been informed that officers of the Department of the Northern Territory are preparing instructions for the introduction of a bill for an ordinance entitled "Stock Feeds and Medicines" which, when finalised, will be forwarded for my consideration.

95 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr PERRON

How many times has the Darwin Citizens' Council met?

How many times did each member of the Darwin Citizens' Council attend those meetings?

ANSWER

The following table gives full details of membership of the Darwin Citizens' Council and attendance at its meetings -

Name	Date appointed	Meetings attended*	Meetings eligible	Resigned (R) or current member (C)
Mrs C.D. Allridge	16/5/75	33 (6)	41	(C)
Mr I. Barker	16/5/75	3 (-)	6	(R)
Mr J. Isaacs	16/5/75	15 (1)	31	(R)
Mr M. Jacob	16/5/75	35 (2)	41	(C)
Rev. D. McKenzie	16/5/75	4 (6)	17	(R)
Mr J.W. Nixon	16/5/75	9 (-)	41	(C)
Mrs J. Parish	16/5/75	19 (-)	41	(C)
Dr L. Reid	16/5/75	23 (-)	26	(R)
Mr E.A. Robertson	16/5/75	8 (4)	19	(R)
Mr D.W. Veal	16/5/75	36 (-)	41	(C)
Mr J.B. Waters	16/5/75	14 (-)	41	(C)
Mr J. Wilkins	16/5/75	28 (7)	41	(C)
Mr R. Chin	16/5/75	22 (11)	41	(C)
Mrs N. Fuchs	16/5/75	6 (-)	8	(R)
Mrs J.M. Muras	9/7/75	16 (3)	23	(R)
Mr R.I. Textor	16/5/75	15 (-)	41	(C)
Mr R. Tipungwuti	9/7/75	4 (8)	35	(C)
Mr B. Valadian	9/7/75	8 (-)	18	(R)
Canon C. Wood	9/7/75	8 (2)	18	(R)
Mr W.K. Lang	18/8/75	27 (4)	33	(C)
Mr H.C. Harrison	9/7/75	19 (6)	35	(C)

* (Additional meetings where leave of absence was granted are indicated in brackets.)

96 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr PERRON

How many times has the Darwin Reconstruction Commission met?

How many times did each member or their delegate attend those meetings?

ANSWER

1. 43.

2. The Reconstruction Commission advises that this information is confidential to the commission.

132 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

1. What were the staffing levels, section by section, for each six months, or at least yearly, in the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch since 1972?

2. How many professional and technical staff are in the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch and how many, on average, are there in similar branches in each of the states?

3. How many professional conferences do professional staff of the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch attend each year compared to their counterparts in each state, and why are they so few?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided by the Department of the

Northern Territory:

1. Staffing statistics are not maintained on section by section basis. However the following tables which show the dates of major changes to branch staffing levels may be of assistance to the honourable member.

(a) Staff

Approved establishment		Ceiling	Employed
Month/Year			
July 1971	228	213	205
July 1972	228	211	212
September 1973	246	211	210
July 1974	265	217	223
November 1975	234	217	215
January 1976	239	221	201
February 1976	239	215	201
March 1976	239	199	194
April 1977	227	-	191
August 1977	207*	-	178

* Transfer of Land Conservation Section to Forestry, Fisheries and Land Conservation Branch.

(b) Industrial employees

Approved establishment		Ceiling	Employed
Month/Year			
July 1971	115	57	55
July 1972	58	54	57
September 1973	63	57	62
July 1974	69	69	62
November 1975	69	69	60
January 1976	69	69	63
February 1976	69	69	62
March 1976	69	62	62
April 1977	62	-	62
August 1977	56	-	58

2. There are 54 professional and 52 technical staff currently employed in the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch. Information on state departments of agriculture is not readily available and it would take considerable time to collect and collate the figures.

3. As it is not known how many professional conferences are attended by state officials, such a comparison cannot be made.

150 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

1. What is the membership of the Tender Board?

2. Who chooses the members?

3. Who decides the duration of membership?

4. Does a position on the Tender Board attract a cash emolument?

5. What criteria are used in appointing members of the Tender Board?

6. Are reasons for accepting a particular tender made public and, if not, why not?

7. Has an unsuccessful tenderer any way of airing what he may feel is a definite grievance against the decision of the Tender Board?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided by the Department of the Northern Territory concerning its Tender Board:

"It is assumed that the question is related to the Tender Board of the Department of the Northern Territory. There are also tender boards in the Department of Construction, Education and Health in the Northern Territory.

1. Chairman - Assistant Secretary, Finance Supply and Vehicles Branch.
   Deputy Chairman - Director of Supply.
   Member - Director of Accounting.
   Executive Member - Officer in Charge of Procurement and Contracts.

2. The members hold their positions ex officio.

3. See reply to 2.

4. No.

5. See reply to 2.

6. A summary of contracts let is published by advertisement in the Northern Territory Gazette; the summary includes a brief description of the goods or services, the value of the contract and the name of the successful tenderer; an unsuccessful tenderer may be informed of the unit prices of the successful tenderer.

7. The unsuccessful tenderer may enquire of the Tender Board the reasons why his tender was unsuccessful; if not satisfied with the answers given by the Tender Board an unsuccessful tenderer would have the normal means of airing a grievance including an approach to the permanent head of the department, the member of the Legislative Assembly, the minister, or may lodge a complaint with the ombudsman."

152 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Will he advise when the Commonwealth government proposes to transfer power to the NT Legislative Assembly to legislate completely on electoral matters in the Territory?

Will he advise when the Assembly executive is likely to introduce legislation on electoral matters in the NT?

Will he advise whether the recommendations of the chairman of the NT Country Liberal Party following the recent Legislative Assembly election on August 13 will be incorporated in such legislation?

ANSWER

1. During 1978.

2. During the life of this Assembly.

3. The principles to be incorporated in the legislation have not yet been determined.

153 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is it a fact that the Alice Springs Criminal Investigation Bureau maintains secret files on the activities of local prominent citizens? If so, why and under whose instructions?

ANSWER

No.

154 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

Is he aware of the shocking condition of the corrugated road to Uluru National Park and of the reported claim that more than 2,000 vehicles have been repaired in the national park in the first nine months of this year and that nearly 300 cars and coaches have been repaired at Curtin Springs in the same period?

If so, will he advise what action his department proposes to take to improve road conditions to Uluru National Park?

ANSWER

Yes, I am aware that the road is in bad shape. I am also aware of the claims that a large number of vehicles have had to be repaired in the national park.

This road is still the responsibility of the Department of the Northern Territory. I am informed by that department that in addition to the normal routine grading, gravel patching and maintenance of drainage structures, an amount of $100,000 has been made available this financial year to resheet 30 km of the road near Curtin Springs.

179 Mr DOOLAN to Mr PERRON

Have tenders been called for a new workshop and stores complex at the Stokes Hill Power Station?

If so, to what stage has work proceeded?

If tenders have not been called, why not?

ANSWER

Tenders have not as yet been called for the new workshop and stores complex at Stokes Hill Power Station.

In keeping with normal programming procedures, this project has been allocated a target date for the calling of tenders of February 1978. It is anticipated that tenders will be invited at that time.

180 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

1. Has a timetable for the complete undergrounding of cables of the electricity distribution system been established?

2. If so, what is it?

3. Has the Majority Party a policy that all cables must be underground?

ANSWER

A timetable for the complete undergrounding of the electricity supply distribution system has not been established. Electricity supply to Anula and Wulagi is underground and it is proposed that the new suburb of Malak also be underground.

Wanguri and Tiwi are being undergrounded as part of the restoration work presently being undertaken.

A working group which was formed to facilitate the establishment of the Northern Territory Electricity Commission recently recommended that distribution systems be permanently restored to overhead standard for all residential suburbs where a damaged overhead system exists. Upgrading or redesign, as necessary, to improve reliability and load capacity is to be included in the restoration works.

The Majority Party is in agreement with this policy.

182 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

1. What sections of which acts or ordinances specifically enable Australian public servants to carry over their recreation leave credits into the Northern Territory Public Service; and

2. Which sections of which acts or ordinances enable Northern Territory public servants to carry over their recreation leave credits to the Australian Public Service?

ANSWER

1. Section 84(2)(f) of the Public Service Act and section 41(9) of the Public Service Ordinance preserve the recreation leave entitlements of officers and employees of the Australian Public Service transferring to the Northern Territory Public Service; section 64 of the Public Service Ordinance preserves the recreation leave entitlements of other Australian Public Service officers and employees who accept appointments to the Northern Territory Public Service.

2. Regulation 120F of the Public Service Regulations made under the Public Service Act preserves the recreation leave entitlements of former officers of the Australian Public Service who are transferred to the Northern Territory Public Service and later return on transfer or promotion to the Australian Public Service.

183 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

1. What position does Mr H.C. Giese hold in the Northern Territory Public Service?

2. Does Mr Giese still occupy an office in the MLC Building?

3. Does Mr Giese also occupy an office in block 2?

ANSWER

1. Mr H.C. Giese occupies the position of Senior Executive Officer, level 2 in the Northern Territory Public Service.

2. No. This office was used by the commissioner designate of the Electricity Commission and is now being used by the director of the Office of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

3. Mr Giese occupies an office in block 2.

184 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Are Northern Territory public servants entitled to an emergency air fare on appointment?

ANSWER

There are no provisions which entitle employees of the Northern Territory Public Service to an emergency air fare on appointment.

Northern Territory Public Service conditions do, however, provide for employees to be credited with a recreation leave fare on appointment which may be used with the commissioner's approval in special circumstances within the first twelve months of service. In addition, provisions exist for employees to be granted air fare entitlements to receive medical treatment where it is certified that the necessary treatment cannot be obtained at their station, and provision also exists for fares assistance to be provided for a close relative in certain circumstances where an employee becomes critically or dangerously ill whilst he is absent from his headquarters on duty.

Firm determinations have been made by the commissioner prior to Christmas incorporating the above principles. However, because of drafting delays, bylaws have not yet been printed and tabled. Despite this, in the meantime, the conditions will be applied administratively as necessary by direction of the commissioner.

185 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

On what basis are employees of the Northern Territory Public Service entitled to departmental housing?

ANSWER

As the government housing function is still the responsibility of the Commonwealth government, employees of the Northern Territory Public Service are entitled to government housing on the same basis as officers of the Australian Public Service.

186 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

Will he advise when the realignment of the Barkly Highway and the bridging of the Ranken and James Rivers will commence, and what timetable for completion is proposed?

ANSWER

The responsibility for the Stuart and Barkly Highways still rests with the Department of the Northern Territory. I have made strong representations to the Minister for the Northern Territory to have the realignment of the Barkly Highway and the bridging of the Ranken and James Rivers commenced in the financial year 1978-79.

187 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

Has consideration been given to the establishment of suitable trees in

the car parking area of Alice Springs airport?

If so, what action is proposed by your department or the appropriate Commonwealth department to establish trees, which would improve the aesthetic quality of the area and which would provide necessary shade for vehicles and persons?

ANSWER

Due to the rapid growth of traffic through Alice Springs in the last few years, it has been necessary to extend, as far as funds will allow, the facilities at the airport.

Further growth in the future will require not merely extension but a complete review of the layout of the apron and building area. We have carried out preliminary studies in this direction and it becomes increasingly apparent that the car parking facilities could be entirely changed from its present configuration.

For this reason no provision has been made for minor improvements such as tree planting. However, when funds become available for implementation of the replanned layout, no doubt provision will be made for tree planting as appropriate.

In the short term, the existing car park was not designed to accommodate trees, because of the extra costs involved in providing more area, maintenance of the trees and the extra water required for their upkeep.

188 Mr PERKINS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it a fact that a feasibility study into a recreation lake for Alice Springs is being carried out at the moment near Jay Creek Aboriginal Community?

If so, on what specific sites is the study being carried out and has there been prior consultation with the Jay Creek Aboriginal Council about the study?

ANSWER

1. No feasibility studies are in progress although three stream-gauging stations are being maintained to provide data for any future study and as a part of the Central Australian hydrologic recording network. The last feasibility study was of a preliminary nature only and was presented in an internal branch report in 1973 and dealt with two of the three sites. The contents of this report together with available data from a third site were used in a published Department of the Northern Territory report in 1975. Apart from the maintenance of the gauging stations the only work carried out since 1975 has been a small amount of topographic surveying mainly at the third site known as Birthday Gap.

2. Two of the sites, known as Ildjarabada and Pyberinge, are on Jay Creek respectively about three and ten kilometres upstream from Iwupataka and are located on the Jay Creek Reserve. The third site, Birthday Gap, is on the Hugh River on Owen Springs pastoral lease. When investigations into the former two commenced in the 1960s consultation was had with the then Northern Territory Administration Welfare Branch. In November 1975 a day was spent examining the three sites by the Alice Springs district engineer with four members of the Central Lands Council. At the time the Aboriginals expressed general interest in the prospect

of a recreation lake which would possibly be owned and managed by Aboriginal people but pointed out that the traditional land owners of the area reside at Hermannsburg and not Iwupataka. The Water Resources Branch of the Department of the Northern Territory appreciates the interest of the Iwupataka people and the traditional land owners in respect of any proposals and there will certainly be consultation before any new investigation work proceeds in the future.

189 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

Will he advise when the major rural road development program, involving the upgrading of the major multi-purpose roads in the Northern Territory, will be commenced? Which rural roads specifically are to be upgraded? What timetable of completion is proposed in each case?

ANSWER

The major rural road development program is still the responsibility of the Department of the Northern Territory. Very little has been done about sponsoring a development roads program over the last two years, but I have made strong representations to the Minister for the Northern Territory to have the Petermann Road and Yuendumu Road upgraded as a matter of priority. When we assume full responsibility for roadworks in July one of my first tasks will be to develop a major rural road development program.

190 Mr PERKINS to Mr PERRON

Will he advise when the investigation and design work on stage 4 of the Alice Springs powerhouse is likely to be completed?

What action is proposed to be taken upon completion of the investigation?

ANSWER

All investigations have been completed and design work to the extent necessary to take the project to the point of examination for final construction approval is well advanced.

Assuming this approval is received in April 1978, it is anticipated that tenders would be called during October 1978, allowing the first of the proposed new generating sets to be commissioned in May 1981 and the second new generating set in October 1981.

210 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

How much will have to be paid to update and upgrade storage and marketing facilities and other installations in respect of the Willeroo Project?

ANSWER

At this stage, the information is not available.

211 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

1. How many staff and in what designations are attached to the Majority Party?

2. How many staff and in what designations are attached to the Opposition?

ANSWER

The following are the staffing details for the Majority Leader, Deputy

Majority Leader, Executive Members in Cabinet and Leader of the Opposition:

Majority Leader and Chief Secretary and Executive Member for Law

Private secretaries	3
Personal secretary	1
Steno-secretary grade 2	1
Clerical assistant grade 3	1
	6

Deputy Majority Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Planning

Private secretaries	2 (1 vacant) approved 27/2/78
Steno-secretary grade 2	1
	3

Executive Member for Resources and Health

Private secretary	1
Steno-secretary grade 1	1
Clerical assistant grade 2	1
	3

Executive Member for Community and Social Development

Private secretary	1
Steno-secretary grade 1	1
	2

Executive Member for Transport and Industry

Private secretary	1
Steno-secretary grade 1	1
	2
Total	16

Leader of the Opposition

Private secretaries	2 (1 vacant) approved 13/12/77
Steno-secretary grade 1	1
Total	3

The above does not include part-time assistance in electoral offices as provided for members under the determination of the Remuneration Tribunal.

213 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

1. Is it the government's intention to restrict Professor Harry Messel's occupation to the present drawn up area on the Beatrice Hill Research Station?

2. Is it a fact that Professor Harry Messel has expressed a wish to move into occupation of certain laboratories, offices and housing at Middle Point?

3. What is being done to put a stop now to any further encroachment on our valuable facilities by Professor Harry Messel?

ANSWER

1. When the Department of the Northern Territory was approached
& to provide accommodation for the University of Sydney research team
2. a preference was expressed for an area providing laboratory, office and residential facilities. These facilities exist at the Coastal Plains Research Station at Middle Point but are adequate only for station personnel. The residential and amenities facilities at Beatrice Hill was offered as an alternative. Occupation will not be effected until additional residential accommodation is available at the Middle Point location for the station staff now at Beatrice Hill.

3. Further requests for assistance are not anticipated but if any are received they will be considered on their merits.

214 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

1. Why was a surprise visit of the Secretary of the Department of the Northern Territory necessary to the Beatrice Hill Research Station prior to the announcement of Professor Harry Messel's proposed occupation; who accompanied the secretary; and on what advice was this visit made?

2. What was the outcome of this visit, having regard to the fact that the common courtesies of prior notification of this visit was not made to any Beatrice Hill Research Station staff?

ANSWER

1. The Secretary of the Department of the Northern Territory has visited Beatrice Hill and Middle Point several times, the most recent occasion being on 17 November 1977. This visit had been arranged some weeks in advance. He was accompanied by the Director-General of the Chief Secretary's Department (Mr M. Finger), the Acting Director of the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch (Mr J. Mailath), the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Housing Branch (Mr T. Fegan) and Professor Messel.

2. The outcome was a decision to offer the facilities at Beatrice Hill.

215 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

Regarding Professor Harry Messel's occupation of the Beatrice Hill Research Station, is it the intention of the government to update, paint and repair the quarters to be occupied in view of the fact that they have not been updated, repaired or painted for the present staff of the Beatrice Hill Research Station during the past ten years?

ANSWER

The government does not intend to carry out any special maintenance or painting prior to the occupation of the Beatrice Hill Research Station by the University of Sydney/Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission. The quarters will be left clean and tidy and in a habitable condition.

216 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

What are the terms of occupation of Professor Harry Messel at the Beatrice Hill Research Station, and how long will his occupation last?

ANSWER

The conditions under which Professor Messel's group would occupy the

Beatrice Hill Research Station are:

. initial tenancy period of ten years;

. twelve months notice should either party wish to vary this period;

. University of Sydney/Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission's joint crocodile research program will be responsible for all ongoing repairs and maintenance to buildings and services, for the payment of electricity and other charges and for general supervision and security during the occasions when officers of the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch are absent from the area;

. the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch will have access to various facilities including power, water, telephone and roads;

. stock watering will have first priority for the water supply.

217 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

(a) Has the environmental impact statement on the siting of the second powerhouse at East Arm been completed?

(b) If not, when is it likely to be completed?

(c) Will the statement be made public?

ANSWER

(a) No.

(b) It is anticipated that the draft environmental impact statement will be completed during April 1978.

(c) The draft environmental impact statement will subsequently be made available to the public in accordance with the administrative procedures under the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974-1975.

218 Mr ISAACS to Mr ROBERTSON

1. Has his department been requested by the Department of the Northern Territory to pay Humphries and Muller $11,200 as a result of expenditure incurred at the time of the cyclone?

2. Has his department paid the amount and if not, does it intend to pay?

ANSWER

1. On 19 October 1977 the Director of the Northern Territory Emergency Services forwarded a claim for payment from Humphries and Muller for $11,193.88 to the Northern Territory Director, Department of Finance and Planning, who in turn submitted the claim to the Department of the Northern Territory.

   In view of the time lapse between the date of receipt of the goods, which were the subject of the claim, and the transfer of the Emergency Services function to the Northern Territory Public Service, the Dept of the Northern Territory sought the advice of the Department of Finance, Canberra, for its decision as to the area of responsibility for payment of the account.

2. The Department of Finance, Canberra, on 3 January 1978, advised that responsibility for payment was that of the Department of the Northern Territory and payment was subsequently made on 17 January 1978.

219 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

1. How many work-related accidents occurred in the Northern Territory during 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1976-77?

2. How much was paid out in workmen's compensation claims in 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1976-77?

ANSWER

The information sought in these questions is not readily available from statistics held anywhere in Australia in the form required. Inquiries have begun in order to collect and collate the information and will be made available when the data comes to hand.

225 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

How many taxi plates are currently on issue in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane, Hobart and Canberra?

ANSWER

The number of taxi plates on issue are: Sydney 3,451, Melbourne 2,877, Adelaide 842, Perth 813, Brisbane 1,336, Hobart 241 and Canberra 104.

Figures are for 28 February 1978 for all cities except Sydney and Melbourne where the applicable dates are 31 January 1978 and 30 June 1977 respectively.

226 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

Can he advise if officers of the Grants Commission have completed an assessment of Northern Territory revenue and expenditure needs and, if so, is he prepared to table the assessment in the Assembly today?

ANSWER

The officers of the Grants Commission have not completed an assessment as indicated by the Opposition Leader. Whilst the Grants Commission has assisted us in an informal manner in our talks with the federal government, it has no powers whatsoever under its charter, under the Grants Commission Act, to become fully involved in revenue and expenditure assessments for the Northern Territory.

227 Mr VALE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can he inform the House about a recent incident allegedly involving a police officer at Hooker Creek?

ANSWER

There are a number of allegations in relation to various incidents. My answer may take some time but I hope that I will have the indulgence of the House as I understand that this matter has received wide publicity not only in Australia but also overseas. The allegations which were made against the police officer at Hooker Creek were received from a Miss Ditton of the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service who wrote to the Commissioner of Police alleging that a constable at Hooker Creek was involved in a theft of Toyota parts from the Lajamanu Council and had constructed a vehicle from the parts for his own use, that the constable was involved in the theft of a generator from Yuwarli Housing Association and that the constable was seen driving his police vehicle out of the housing association yard with some piping belonging to the association. The incident was reported to the administration officer and, shortly after, the constable ordered three of the housing association's vehicles to be put off the road as unroadworthy. The allegation was that the constable's action amounted to abuse of his position and discrimination. The fourth allegation was that there was a "row" between the Lajamanu Council and the police after which the constable put the sanitary truck off the road for four days for being unroadworthy. It was alleged that the constable's action was an abuse of process. Fifthly, on 17 October last year, Miss Ditton of the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service wrote to me alleging that on 29 July last year the constable was asked by the Lajamanu Council to prevent a truck load of liquor from entering the reserve. He intercepted the vehicle and directed its driver to stop in front of the store. Seventy flagons of wine were unloaded from the truck. The constable lined the flagons up outside the store and shot some of them with a rifle. It is alleged that at least three people, and possibly more, received minor injuries from flying glass. Sixthly, it was also alleged that, on 29 August 1977, the constable collected nine youths from around the settlement, chained them together and put them to work pulling grass. He threatened them with a stick and hit two of the youths with the stick.

A man called Clin Coburn, the manager of the Yuwarli Housing Association, also wrote to the Commissioner of Police making allegations similar to 1, 2 and 6 aforementioned. The investigations of these allegations was undertaken by Inspectors Hovey and Young, Detective-Sergeant Marchant and Detective MacLeod. The constable concerned was closely questioned and statements were taken from most of the people at Hooker Creek who could shed light on the matters.

The conclusions of the investigators: firstly, in relation to the theft of Toyota parts, there appears to have been no substance in this allegation. The constable did build a beach buggy but with parts he obtained from the dump; with the exception of the cabin chassis, the parts were not Toyota parts. No Aboriginal complained to the police that the constable had stolen Toyota parts.

Secondly, the theft of the generator: there appears to have been no substance in this allegation. The constable apparently rebuilt the generator from parts he found at the dump and sold it to a man at the Wave Hill store. Again, no Aboriginal complained to the police that the constable had stolen a generator. Incidentally, so I am informed by the Solicitor for the Northern Territory, Inspector Young says that at the Hooker Creek dump there are some 100 abandoned vehicles and electrical equipment including washing machines and air coolers. It appears that from time to time usable equipment is dumped if it breaks down.

Inquiries are being pursued regarding the involvement of other people in the theft, if any, of vehicle parts and a generator, but it is not expected that the constable will be shown to have been implicated and the police do not believe that he was.

Thirdly, removal of the pipes and ordering vehicles off the road: it is nowhere suggested that the constable was stealing the pipes which apparently were used to build a mustering yard as part of the settlement's cattle project. No complaint was made about the pipes so there is no point in pursuing the issue. The allegation that the constable abused his position by unreasonably ordering that vehicles should stay off the road is without substance. No one complained to the police about any such order.

Row, ordering sanitary truck off the road: the investigators found no evidence of any row that occurred between the council and the police. The sanitary truck was a tractor which had no lights and another policemen, not the one concerned, ordered that it be fitted with lights. It is to be noted that none of the first four allegations were substantiated and no Aboriginal appeared to be interested in complaining to the investigators about any conduct of the constable in this regard.

As to the allegation in relation to the shooting of the flagons and chaining of youths, the following is the position. Shooting the flagons: the incident undoubtedly happened. A utility load of liquor arrived at Hooker Creek; it contained 70 flagons of invalid port. The constable destroyed some of the flagons by shooting them. Three men and possibly more received minor injuries from flying glass. The Lajamanu Council certainly approved of the destruction of the liquor but there is some dispute as to whether or not council members approved in advance of the method of destruction. The constable thought that he was acting properly by bringing home to the people that taking liquor into the reserve was a serious offence. In the view of the Solicitor for the Northern Territory, there is no criminal charge which could profitably be laid, but the constable in his opinion was guilty of a serious error of judgment.

Chaining the youths: on 29 August, the constable put nine youths to work clearing an area of grass and rubbish. They were hobbled with leather hobbles for about 30 minutes, but worked for two or three hours. The constable assisted to put the hobbles on. The youths were wearing long trousers and suffered no injury from the hobbles. The reasons for the incidents are as follows: firstly, the youths in question had previously offended against the law and had been previously punished tribally. On the night of 28 August, they interfered with two motor vehicles. The constable arrested them; he could see no point in charging them and taking them to

court and he wanted to make an example of them in a way approved of by the council men. The men decided that it would be a good idea to make the youths publicly work for the community as a punishment. The hobbles were put on with the approval of the men of the council to stop the youths running away. Apart from statements from two of the youths, there is no evidence that the constable struck them although a number of bystanders were present. There is no doubt that the incident occurred with the approval of at least some of the community's adult Aborigines, including the council leader Maurice Luther. Apparently the lesson was not lost on others because the crime rate dropped considerably after the youths were publicly chained. Again the Solicitor for the Northern Territory sees no virtue in bringing any criminal charge but again the constable was plainly guilty of a serious error of judgment.

A number of the people at the settlement have paid tribute to the constable's attitude to Aborigines. Two respected white people at the settlement are the school principal, Mr Holt, and an adult educator, Mr Creepers. Both agree with the public destruction of the liquor, although they think the method was unwise. Both agree with the hobbling incident and they are adamant that neither incident met with any general disapproval at the settlement.

228 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Is the Executive Member for Transport and Industry aware that the Northern Territory Port Authority has not presented audited accounts for the financial year 1975-76 and 1976-77? Can he assure the Assembly that the audited accounts will be tabled this session?

ANSWER

I do not know if I am in a position to give that sort of an assurance until I can talk to the Port Authority about their accounts. Certainly, today, I will ring the Port Authority and discuss their accounts with them and, if possible, present them during this sittings.

229 Mr HARRIS to Mr ROBERTSON

The need to have a museum permanently established is of the utmost importance. With this in mind, has any decision been reached as to the positioning of the museum and, if so, is he able to indicate in what area the museum is to be built?

ANSWER

The location of the new Darwin based museum and art gallery is the subject of an executive submission which I have called for. The balance to be met, of course, is one between architectural excellence and the best possible access to the public, both by local Darwin people and of course our most valued visitors from interstate. The Museums and Art Galleries Board has made a recommendation which is supported by architectural plans. The Executive Member for Finance and Planning is having his department give us planning and alternative options in relation to the best possible location for this very expensive and very much needed facility in Darwin. I would hope by the next sittings of the Assembly, if not before, to be able to make an announcement through the executive as to its exact location.

230 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr PERRON

Is he aware that the Housing Commission has not formally submitted finan-

cial statements to the Auditor-General for the financial years ending 30 June 1975, 1976 and 1977? Is he aware that annual reports have not been tabled in this Assembly for periods since 1972-73? What action has he taken to ensure that the financial statements will be submitted to the Auditor-General and that annual reports will be tabled in this Assembly?

ANSWER

I think it would be more appropriate for this question to be placed on notice, Mr Speaker. However, I can indicate that I am aware that there is a back-log of work to be done by the Housing Commission in order to meet its statutory requirements of tabling its annual reports in this House. The delay is primarily caused by the difficulties that have been experienced, not only by the commission but other aspects of government in Darwin, since Cyclone Tracy. Every action is being taken to enable it to bring its audited accounts up to date so that the reports can be tabled in this Assembly at the earliest possible date.

231 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

Can he advise the present progress and status of the Tarcoola to Alice Springs standard gauge rail link?

ANSWER

I have obtained a brief report on the progress of the railway line. Earthworks and line are in the vicinity of Mount Willoughby in South Australia. The line is about 50 kilometres behind the end of the earthworks. Contracts have been let for the next stage to Kulgara, for line construction and for bridge construction over the Finke and Hugh Rivers between Kulgara and Alice Springs. The line is expected to reach Kulgara in January 1979. The current rate of progress would see the line in Alice Springs by the projected time of 1981. A decision on the terminal location in Alice Springs is yet to be arrived at.

232 Mr PERKINS to Mr ROBERTSON

Is he aware that the last audited report for the Darwin City Council tabled in the Assembly was for the year ended 30 June 1974? I ask, will he undertake to table the audited reports of the Darwin City Council since that date during the current Assembly sittings?

ANSWER

The answer to the honourable member's question is that the matter will be investigated.

233 Mr OLIVER to Mr ROBERTSON

Is there any truth in the statement attributed to the honourable Leader of the Opposition that future ratepayers in the town of Katherine will pay more than elsewhere in the Territory?

Mr ISAACS (Opposition Leader): A point of order, Mr Speaker. As I understand it, the question is seeking an opinion from the honourable executive member, which would be out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: The question was, is there any truth in the statement?

Mr Robertson: It's a statement of fact.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order.

Mr ROBERTSON (Community and Social Development): In responding to the question seeking a statement of facts, as to whether or not the people of Katherine would be charged rates higher than anywhere else in the Northern Territory, which I understand resulted from the honourable Leader of the Opposition's pilgrimage of mischief throughout the Territory recently, the plain fact of the matter is that we have spelled out very clearly in writing, both in offer form and in writing over my signature, to the chairmen of the town management boards in Katherine and Tennant Creek, the precise amount of ratings which a CLP government expects they should raise: 50% of the average between Darwin and Alice Springs. There are two ways of looking at the question. Indeed, it would seem to me that the honourable member was probably speaking as Leader of the Opposition and that he is indicating the policy of the ALP; if they got in, the rating would be in excess of that applicable to Alice Springs and Darwin. The people of Katherine, responding logically to this statement, will be very wary of voting ALP in any future election.

234 Mr VALE to Mr SPEAKER

Would you advise if someone has taken over occupancy of part of what is commonly referred to as the common room? If so, who is occupying those two end rooms?

ANSWER

I am not aware of anybody taking over occupancy of the common room but I will investigate the matter immediately.

235 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr STEELE

I warn him that I will ask this question interminably until I get some satisfaction. Can he indicate progress towards the establishment of a bicycle track from the northern suburbs to the city centre? At the previous sittings, when I asked a question along similar lines, he said that a feasibility study was being undertaken by his department. Is that completed and, if so, what are the recommendations?

ANSWER

I have not seen a report on bicycle tracks at this time. We are not properly in charge of most of the transport and roads areas. Although there are reports coming through, some of them do not necessarily go to me. There is still another system of government prevailing in the Northern Territory. The more quickly we get to 1 July the better.

236 Mr HARRIS to Mr PERRON

What is the intended policy in relation to the supply of goods and services to the Northern Territory government?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory executive is investigating ways by which some preferential treatment can be given to local suppliers of goods and services so that a policy can be firmly established to come into operation from 1 July. My executive is aware of the necessity to support and promote local industries which have demonstrated their faith in the Territory by both investment and employment, and we seek to assist these people. We are having a look at schemes which are currently in operation in both Tasmania

ANSWER

In respect of the parts of the question which seek information as to the data, I would ask that it be placed on notice if he really wants the answer. But I think he has probably done sufficient homework. However, the latter part of the question shows an appalling ignorance of what rating in local government means. I would be quite happy for the honourable gentleman to talk to me at some time in order that his education might be fulfilled. The rate in the dollar has absolutely no relevance whatsoever to the amount of money you actually put in the envelope and spend to the council. It totally depends upon the amount of the unimproved capital value. It is an act of sheer mischief to suggest that people in Katherine - we might take a little time over this. I will read from a press statement on the honourable member's letterhead and I would ask honourable members to come to their own conclusion as to whether or not the implication is that the people of Katherine will be paying more than the people in the rest of the Territory.

Mr Isaacs: Good publicity.

Mr ROBERTSON: Yes, and it is quite false. Paragraph 3 of his press release of 23 February 1978:

> *As well, the townspeople will be paying recently imposed council rates higher than anywhere else in the Northern Territory, except for Tennant Creek.*

The clear implication, designed to mislead and scare people, is that they will be paying more in real terms. That is not true at all. The fact of the matter is that the unimproved capital value in both of those centres is way below those in Darwin and Alice Springs. The reality of it, in actual dollar and cent terms, is that they will not be required by this executive - his own mob, a different story perhaps - to pay any more than half the average paid by Alice Springs and Darwin. The rest of this is just sheer mischief.

243 Mr OLIVER to Mr EVERINGHAM

Will day labour employed by the Department of the Northern Territory and transferred to the Northern Territory Public Service be in any way disadvantaged?

ANSWER

I would not think that day labour presently employed by the Department of the Northern Territory and transferred to the Northern Territory Public Service would be disadvantaged because when day labourers are transferred to the Northern Territory Public Service they will become permanent employees within the Northern Territory Public Service, and I understand they are not permanent employees in the Australian Public Service. As permanent employees in the Northern Territory Public Service, they will become entitled to be put on the same housing list as all other public servants so that is one advantage I could think of.

244 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

Is he aware that no audited accounts from the Primary Producers Board have ever been tabled in this Assembly? Can he give an undertaking that these accounts will be tabled during this sittings and, if he cannot give this undertaking, will he ensure that the unaudited financial statement be tabled during the sitting today?

ANSWER

I am not aware that the accounts have not been presented to the Assembly, I am not even aware if they should by statute but I will check the matter out.

245 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr PERRON

What is happening in relation to the establishment of the Town Planning Appeals Committee?

ANSWER

The Town Planning Appeals Committee for the Northern Territory has been established. I have recently appointed three members to the Town Planning Appeals Committee and I believe a press release is going out today on this subject. The matter has only just been finalised and, for the information of members of the House, I can advise that Mr Dean Mildren will be the chairman of the Town Planning Appeals Committee: Mr Gary Hunt, an architect, and Mr Graham Chrisp, an engineer, will also be members of the committee.

246 Mr ISAACS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is he aware that the kitchen floor in the Alice Springs Hospital is not suitably tiled, causing at least one accident a week due to its non-skid surface? Is he also aware that the oven doors in the kitchen open down instead of at the side, thus making it unsafe for staff to take cooked food out of the oven? How much would it cost to have the work referred to carried out and when will it be done?

ANSWER

I am grateful to the honourable Leader of the Opposition for having given me a bit of notice on this and the reply I have for the honourable member is in this vein: that in fact two accidents have been reported in the past 12 months - which does not run at one a week - due to persons slipping on the floor at the Alice Springs Hospital kitchen. One of these involved a fracture of the forearm and the other was a fall of less significance. The floors are of a type commonly used in all hospitals and new procedures have been adopted to clean this floor in such a manner that it will help prevent future accidents. I might add, Mr Speaker, from my own experience - and I am sure the honourable Leader of the Opposition is well aware, as a man who has been around industry for a long time, that it is a catch 22 situation in providing floors in buildings - that it is the object of the Health Department to obtain the highest degree of sanitation in any kitchen, which means that the composition of the floor material needs to be as smooth as possible. To provide a safe working floor, you need a rough floor which is not conducive to good sanitation. Allied with this is the cleaning mechanisms that are used. If a petrochemical base cleaning material is used, it is almost impossible to have a non-slip floor. If a caustic base is used, then it becomes much more suitable. The points that the honourable Leader of the Opposition has raised have been taken and the Health Department has undertaken to overcome the problem.

In relation to the comments concerning the oven, new handling procedures have been devised to enable staff to avoid burns when using the ovens. It appears that it is not practicable to lower the oven to a lower level which would facilitate operating for the people in the kitchen and it has also been established, although I do not have the actual cost, that the cost of remodelling the ovens themselves to change the swing on the doors is prohibitive.

247 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

I refer the honourable member to my previous questions of 21 September and 22 November about Arafura Hostel. Now that we know the hostel is to be closed from 18 March, can he tell us what use will be made of the land and of the buildings?

ANSWER

I have no specific information to hand on this subject. However, I will seek the information and provide it during these sittings to the honourable member.

248 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr PERRON

Can he tell me at what stage is the proposed finance officers training scheme which was recently introduced in his department?

ANSWER

The finance officers training scheme which was implemented recently has actually commenced with 11 participants. Those participants who were not already working for the public service - and a number of them were - commenced with the Northern Territory Public Service last week. They went straight into an orientation course with the Community College and actually commenced the course in business studies which will lead them, hopefully, to obtaining eventually a degree in business management. The course commences this week and is expected to be over a period of three years, except of course for those persons who already have partial credits on the course.

254 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

Did he hear the report on the ABC last night that North Queensland electricity rates are to rise by an average of $2.30 per month? Does his recently announced 7% increase in electricity rates take this later announcement into account? If not, by what percentage will the Northern Territory electricity charges be increased?

ANSWER

During the course of these sittings, I propose to deliver a comprehensive statement on revenue-raising efforts and government charges increases proposed in the foreseeable future by the Northern Territory executive in relation to electricity. The documents prepared to date do not take into consideration the increases in Queensland which were only announced yesterday.

255 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

Can he advise the present status of the blue tongue disease?

ANSWER

It is my wish to deliver a statement this morning covering most aspects of the blue tongue situation.

Dr Peter Hooper will be leaving Australia at the end of this week representing the Northern Territory in discussions with veterinary authorities in Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong, Manilla and Port Moresby. From the Northern Territory point of view, we are not satisfied that the veterinary authorities overseas are in possession of sufficient detailed information about the Northern Territory blue tongue situation. The Australian Bureau of Animal Health is too far removed from the detailed property disease evaluations which Dr Peter Hooper will provide. We believe that the government Bureau of Animal Health has no exclusive concern for Territory cattlemen. We are vitally concerned to ensure that cattlemen obtain good prices for their stock from the meatworks during this season. If competitive prices are not available this year, there is every chance that the industry will collapse involving a loss of millions of dollars worth of investment, not counting the personal hardships involved. We see this expedition as an important function in the marketing of Northern Territory livestock which, because of glut conditions, is essential if the industry is to survive.

256 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr TUXWORTH

Is he aware that there is a grave shortage of beds available at the Darwin Hospital at the moment resulting in the fact that a number of patients are not being admitted for elective surgery? Does he know there are two wards that are not in use because of staff ceilings imposed by the Fraser government, resulting in staff not being available to service these wards? Can he tell us what he is doing about this?

ANSWER

I am not aware that the situation is as the honourable member suggests. My understanding is that there is difficulty at the moment for doctors who wish to carry out elective surgery on their patients in booking ahead and obtaining bed space. This is normally the case. However, the floor of ward

15 collapsed resulting in the necessity for an internal re-arrangement inside the hospital and a restriction on the number of beds available. This matter has to be resolved and the Director of Health has undertaken that it will be resolved as soon as possible. The reference to staff ceilings is probably a fair comment. Since November last year, both the Majority Leader and myself have been pursuing, with the Prime Minister and the Minister for Health respectively, the possibility of having the ceilings increased in the Northern Territory Department of Health to enable several facets of health care to be improved. This is just one further instance in which the procrastination of the federal Public Service Commissioner and his unsympathetic attitude towards the needs of the Northern Territory is putting us at a disadvantage. It is a situation over which we have no control. This is a very good argument for the function of health to be transferred to the Northern Territory as soon as possible so that the problems can be given the sympathetic hearing they deserve by this executive.

257 Mr HARRIS to Mr PERRON

Could he please give the reasons for the extended blackouts which occurred in Darwin last Saturday?

ANSWER

I have been advised by the Department of Construction that, as a result of a heavy electrical storm which hit Darwin at 2300 hours on Saturday night, many power blackouts and interruptions were caused throughout Darwin and its suburbs. Nearing the end of the storm, a circuit breaker at the system control failed to operate and a transformer caught fire. This resulted in Stokes Hill Power Station automatically shutting down and the whole of Darwin electricity supply went off. The faulty circuit breaker and transformer were isolated, and supply from Stokes Hill Power Station was progressively brought back on line with the city area first - that was out for approximately 45 minutes - and the northern suburbs last. The northern suburbs were out for approximately three hours. The repairs at the city zone substation, which incorporate systems control, were delayed due to repair crews already being out on earlier calls during the storm.

258 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

Is it intended to announce the introduction of increased registration fees for commercial vehicles and, if so, when might we expect that announcement?

ANSWER

I am not sure that I understand the question: is it proposed that an announcement be made about registration charges on commercial vehicles?

Mr Doolan: Increases.

Mr STEELE: As far as I am aware, there is no proposition before the executive to consider this matter at all.

259 Mr OLIVER to Mr TUXWORTH

Has the television advertisement promoting Northern Territory destinations been commenced and, if so, what is the response?

ANSWER

A statement was made yesterday in relation to this matter and I would just repeat it in the House for the benefit of the honourable member and others. The Northern Territory Government Tourist Bureau two years ago began a very intensive promotion campaign on radio in the southern states and it did bring a lot of additional tourist business to the Northern Territory. As a result of this, the board has now embarked on a TV promotion campaign that will be extended to all the states over a period of years. As honourable members would be aware, there is a great deal of expense involved in TV advertising and the board's first effort has been directed to the city of Adelaide which is closest to us but which seems to initiate least tourist travel to the Northern Territory.

The program began last week and the report that I have had from the board is that its Adelaide office has been inundated with additional enquiries and forward bookings, in fact to the degree that the staff cannot cope with the additional work. If the response in the other cities in the next twelve months and two years is similar to Adelaide and this is any indication of what we can expect, it would not be unreasonable to anticipate a 200% to 300% increase in the actual tourist activity initiated from the southern capitals to the Northern Territory over the next two to three years.

260 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

This question is concerning the Carpentaria college. Is it a fact that the only thing holding up settlement of the dispute or the transfer from the Anglican Church to the federal government is payment of an electricity account incurred since the cyclone of some few thousand dollars?

ANSWER

I am not aware of those facts, if they are in fact facts; I will check the matter out and advise the honourable member during the course of these sittings.

261 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr PERRON

Can he tell me how many government houses have been empty for over four weeks and why?

ANSWER

I have had some forewarning of this question and I understand it relates to government houses in Darwin which have been vacant for reasonably long periods, as there seems to be occasional criticism in the community of a long waiting list yet there are houses seemingly remaining vacant around the town. The reply which has been supplied to us by the Department of the Northern Territory is a little surprising. They advise that there are six houses which have been empty for over four weeks. They also provide reasons for each of these six houses and primarily they relate in several of the cases to the fact that the houses are vacant because no one seemingly will take them. That situation relates to six of the houses. In a couple of cases there was some dispute over keys being lost and tenant's cleaning responsibilities on moving out of the house. These have been corrected and the houses put back on the offer list but they seem to be sufficiently unpopular for people rather not to move into them at all. In one case of the six houses, one lounge wall was extensively damaged by a truck delivering soil and it has been empty for some time while repairs are being carried out.

262 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr TUXWORTH

Can he inform us when dental staff will be available at the dental clinics at Anula and Wulagi schools?

ANSWER

Off the top of my head I cannot inform the honourable member on that. However, I will endeavour to get the information and advise the honourable member later in the sittings.

263 Mr HARRIS to Mr PERRON

When will the No. 7 generator at Stokes Hill Power Station be commissioned?

ANSWER

I have also received advice from the Department of Construction on this matter, as the generating capacity at Stokes Hill Power Station is a matter of some concern to all of us here in Darwin. The official commissioning date under the contract for the No. 7 generator is 14 March. Commissioning tests and trials have been going well to date, and the machine has been on line several times and carried a load of up to 15 megawatts. It should take full load within the next few days and commissioning is expected to be before time.

264 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

My question concerns education and local legislation. Have school authorities any right to enforce the wearing of school uniforms or other regulations regarding dress? My understanding was that they did not have that right. Can he tell me whether a Darwin school, which has advised parents that girls cannot wear shorts to school, has any right to do so?

ANSWER

The honourable member raises a very vexed question. I remember the wrestles I used to have as a member of the Alice Springs High School Council prior to taking up this particular portfolio. To the best of my knowledge, the problems were never resolved by that high school council despite the presence of one of the most experienced principals in the Northern Territory, Mr Paine. I certainly will try to come up with a definite answer to the question. To the best of my knowledge, there would be no real mechanism for forcing a person to wear a particular uniform. As a matter of routine discipline within a school, it would be quite proper for a principal to enforce a standard of dress where it was for other than economic reasons.

265 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

When is it expected that the Darwin Cyclone Tracy Relief Fund trustees will next meet?

ANSWER

I did show her yesterday a letter to me from the Deputy Crown Solicitor which indicates legal proceedings are in train. I do not expect that there is any point in the trustees meeting until after the resolution of these legal proceedings. I have certainly kept on the back of the Deputy Crown Solicitor to get these proceedings over. In my view, they have taken an unconscionably long time.

266 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr ROBERTSON

In 1977 a study of malls in the central business district of other Australian cities was jointly undertaken by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission and the Corporation of the City of Darwin. Can he tell us whether a report of this study was ever submitted to the Corporation of the City of Darwin? If a report was submitted, would he undertake to table a copy for the information of the Assembly?

ANSWER

If such a report does exist, I would be quite happy to see that it is tabled for the information of honourable members. I certainly have not heard of one though.

267 Mr HARRIS to Mr STEELE

Is it a fact that there is no fire alarm system between the fire station and some of the larger buildings in Darwin?

ANSWER

The fire console at the fire station was originally installed by Wormalds and is connected to about 130 public buildings in the Darwin area. The system had the capacity to identify six different alert signals in the particular building number from which they emanated. For technical reasons such as earth leakage, lightning strikes etc, the system has become ineffective and was disconnected about six weeks ago. The Department of Construction invited tenders, closing last November, for a new system and has had trouble in preparing a recommendation on which tender to accept. The difficulty apparently is whether the cheapest offer, which is a modification of the previous system, or a better and dearer system should be accepted. A side issue is that owners of the buildings would be required to install new black boxes at $250 per building or a total cost of some $35,000. About 80% of the buildings are reported to be owned by the federal government at present. My office will be seeking a conference with the Department of Construction this week to try to resolve the situation.

268 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

Is any information at present available in relation to applications, covenants or other requirements for people wishing to nominate for blocks in the Willeroo project?

ANSWER

I more or less indicated yesterday that the final management details have not yet been worked out. When that information is available, I will be the first to let the honourable gentleman know.

269 Mr HARRIS to Mr STEELE

In light of the petition which was presented yesterday seeking an overpass on Trower Road, could he please indicate what the executive will do or try to do to satisfy the request of these people?

ANSWER

The executive is very keen to see two footbridges in particular constructed in the Darwin area, the Trower Road footbridge and the footbridge opposite

the Darwin High School. We have been fighting a lone-hand battle on this one for quite some months but finally it seems that we now have a lot more people thinking our way. In fact, the experts have stood down in the face of what the community requires in this regard.

At a meeting with the council a few days ago, I discussed the matter with the mayor and the council is now on side. They are quite happy to support footbridges and we will be making a budget allocation ourselves. At a budget meeting last week we asked that certain amounts of money be set aside to accommodate these two footbridges. The DRC, through the council, was funding certain pedestrian crossings and lights. I have asked the mayor if she could recommend to the DRC that that money be put to one side as a deposit, if you like, on the first footbridge.

270 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

I remind him of my question of Wednesday 23 November last year. Can he now tell me what use will be made of the site at Stokes Street, Parap which was formerly occupied by the Parap infant school? It is zoned S1 on the new town plan.

ANSWER

I apologise to the honourable member if I undertook to supply an answer to a question and it has not been done. However, I will undertake to check the matter out today and advise her.

271 Mr HARRIS to Mr STEELE

It has been mooted that the picnic day holiday be in the month of May because of the "Back to Darwin" celebrations. I would like to direct a question to the executive member for Transport and Industry. Would he please inform me if that date has been set and, if so, what is the date for the picnic day holiday?

ANSWER

No, the date has not been set. The idea was canvassed that there should be a holiday for the "Back to Darwin" celebrations combined with the picnic day holiday. However, the picnic day holiday is now 7 August.

272 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

At the forthcoming talks between the executive member for Resources and Health and the federal government, will action be taken by him to ensure that stages 1 and 2 of the Kakadu National Park are proceeded with without the intrusion of uranium mining?

ANSWER

I am at a disadvantage; the honourable member seems to know more about the business than I do. I would ask that the question be placed on notice.

273 Mr VALE to Mr EVERINGHAM

My question concerns a press report in yesterday's NT News which tends to indicate that the ALP may have received some support from within the CLP for their call for a referendum. The question is, could the Majority Leader confirm the accuracy of that report?

ANSWER

In answer to the question of the honourable member for Stuart, can I say that the ALP has received no support from the CLP for its call for a referendum - in fact, quite the reverse. I may state that the election last year was fought entirely, as I saw it, on this issue and on the issue of self-government. The press report is inaccurate in that members are, of course, obliged to present petitions presented to them by their constituents and it is customary to do so without demur.

274 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

I ask a question of the Majority Leader, which in some ways follows from the answer he just gave. Was the Majority Leader asked to present a petition relating to the referendum proposal yesterday? Does he intend to present it? If not, why not?

ANSWER

I have not been asked to present a petition by anyone. A petition was handed to me this morning by a member of my staff. I read the petition and found that the petitioners all appeared to reside in the electorate of Sanderson, so I arranged for the petition to be sent to the honourable member for that electorate.

275 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

Can the executive member for Transport and Industry advise the present status concerning motor registration fees for both city corporations or councils and pensioners in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I made the honourable member for MacDonnell an offer on Tuesday which he neglected to take up. Until such time as the executive decides otherwise - and that could be in the next few months - I have approved the remittance of those fees paid by the Alice Springs and Darwin corporations for those vehicles engaged in road construction, maintenance and hygiene. This will mean that all council vehicles other than those used as private vehicles will avoid registration charges. The states do extend some concessions to municipal authorities. However, the executive will decide the future Northern Territory policy, taking into account the needs of pensioners and the subsidisation aspects of that situation.

276 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

I have before me a paper which says that the contract for street lighting on East Point Road will be suspended "while consideration of the Palmerston arterial road is still under way". Can he tell me if, indeed, consideration of the Palmerston arterial road is still under way and, if so, by whom?

ANSWER

The subject of alternative arterial roads into Darwin is under study by both planners and transport personnel to decide exactly what arterial roads should be incorporated in future works programs over the next couple of years. Papers are being prepared for consideration by the executive. Bearing on this question is the fact that moneys are due to the city corporation of Darwin for the upgrading of East Point Road and Gardens Hill Road under the package program when local government was taken over in Darwin. It was agreed that these roads would be upgraded to a suitable standard. In order to determine what standard East Point Road should be made, we have first to determine how much traffic East Point Road is liable to carry. We can then provide money to the city corporation for the upgrading under the local government agreement. There is a study being done on arterial roads generally. Obviously that study has to take into consideration the original proposals for the Palmerston arterial road and we expect papers to come forward to the executive in the near future.

277 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Will he give an undertaking to this Assembly that the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission will not alienate any vacant crown land to become a national park or a reserve until any Aboriginal land claims onthose lands are heard according to the due processes of law?

ANSWER

I do not believe that question concerns the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission whose parks are pretty well defined. I would undertake to ascertain necessary information for the honourable member. Perhaps he might like to put the question on notice.

278 Mr VALE to Mr ROBERTSON

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. What will local government cost the average Katherine householder in dollars and cents more than what is being charged now?

ANSWER

That question has the ring of coincidence about. I had planned to make a statement to the House in the adjournment this evening. I hope to be able to give that information at that time.

279 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can he confirm that the police department is still part of the Chief Secretary's Department?

ANSWER

Yes, the police unit - I believe it is called technically - is for administrative purposes connected to the Chief Secretary's Department. It is not a section of the Department of Law, if that was the thrust of the Opposition Leader's question, and as far as I am concerned, it would not become part of the Department of Law.

280 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr PERRON

Is it a fact that the Housing Commission has notified tenants of all its

premises that rents are to be increased by $2 per week? Is it further true that the rent increases are to apply to all premises, regardless of whether they have been upgraded to present cyclone-resistant standards? And if it is true, will he undertake to exempt the tenants of premises that have not been upgraded to cyclone-resistant standards from the proposed rent increases?

ANSWER

I expect that such notice has been supplied to tenants of the Housing Commission of an anticipated rental increase. They are required under their legislation to formally advise in writing every tenant of the commission of rental increases and, as approval has been given for such increases, I would expect that that action is in operation. The $2 increase for Housing Commission dwellings is across the board and applies to all forms of Housing Commission dwellings including caravans, demountables, damaged houses and upgraded houses. I will not give any undertaking that the rental increase will be rebated in the case of houses which have not been upgraded, because, in fact, the Housing Commission rental structure takes into consideration the various conditions and stages of Housing Commission accommodation already.

281 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can he tell me what is the incidence of petrol sniffing in the Northern Territory by Aboriginals? Has it increased over the years and what steps have been taken to prevent this habit?

ANSWER

The subject of petrol sniffing amongst young people and apparently particularly amongst Aboriginal young people in the Northern Territory is a subject which has been giving myself and other members of the executive considerable concern. Unfortunately, there is not a great deal that can be done about it by the Northern Territory executive in an attempt to remedy the situation at the present time because we have at the moment no responsibility for community welfare, education or health. We would hope, when responsibility for these functions is transferred to the Northern Territory executive, to be able to initiate action in this area.

But in specific answer to the honourable member's questions of which he gave me some notice, I have ascertained the following information. It is difficult to find comprehensive figures on petrol sniffing amongst Aboriginals in the Northern Territory. A number of reports on petrol sniffing have been written and statistics relating to the times of the various investigations have been put forward. For instance, one report written this year estimates that at Yirrkala over a twelve months period 25% of the male population between 6 and 20 years have engaged in it whilst the estimate for Elcho Island is 50%, which is pretty worrying. The report suggests that the practice is also rampant at Maningrida and we heard about that from the honourable member for Arnhem yesterday, and to a lesser extent at Millingimbi and also at Lake Evela. A report on petrol sniffing at Papunya indicated that 63 children engaged in the practice on a casual or regular basis, and I seem to recall that it was a result of this that the Papunya council made a request to the Yirrkala council to send children from Papunya to Bremmer Island.

There seems no doubt that petrol sniffing has increased over the years and a disturbing factor is that the practice has spread geographically. Areas of Central Australia where until recent years the practice was unknown now

face serious problems with it. In a report in 1972 by Dr Barry Nirlcombe, he said:

> The situation is disturbing like that in other groups who perceive themselves as socially excluded. Elsewhere alcohol, marihuana, aeroplane glue, heroin and amphetamines have become vehicles of tension release during adolescence. In Aboriginal communities, if alcohol is not available, petrol serves this function, forming a habit which is said to be widespread in northern and central Australia.

The report talked about the reasons why such tensions are built up in these communities, especially amongst the young people who are torn between the demands and atractions of two cultures. A number of measures have been tried by communities and government authorities to deal with the situation, often without a great deal of success. The measures have ranged from institutionalisation through the courts for related crimes, to isolation by the decision of the community. Attempts at control by locking away petrol have generally been futile. An encouraging report has come from Papunya on measures taken to deal with the problems and I would commend to you the report titled "Petrol Sniffing - Papunya, a Community Solution". I could arrange to have a number of other reports made available to the honourable member and other honourable members if they would like to read them.

282 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

I would remind him that there is a price cutting war presently taking place between margarine manufacturers. Can he explain to me or perhaps investigate why Coles can advertise in Melbourne various brands of margarine at 59 cents and 65 cents, and at the same time they are advertised by Coles in the Northern Territory News at 80 cents - the same brands in the same quantities? Can he investigate this and get an answer for us?

ANSWER

I thank the honourable member for bringing this to my attention, because we are all aware - and none of us more aware than you, Sir - of the inherent penalties, I suppose, for living in the Northern Territory in terms of freight costs, which could be a partial answer. But it seems an awful lot. It is very easy to transhipcontainers of margarine. Most of us have just about cried our eyes out when we go to the central market in Adelaide and see a huge cabbage for 18 cents and it sells for $1.80 here. Well, the explanation is of course freight - the third-person or middleman costs. But I will take that one on board and just see what the reason behind it is.

283 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr STEELE

What action does he propose to take to ensure the continuation of the shipping service provided by the vessel, Darwin Trader?

ANSWER

We propose to take as much action as we possibly can, inside certain limitations. Certainly, in recent months we have made many representations to the Minister for Transport and exhorted him not to make any changes to the schedule or any proposals that would disadvantage Territory people. He has promised to keep us informed in this regard.

284 Mr HARRIS to Mr ROBERTSON

I understand that the Corporation of the City of Darwin has requested

priority amendments to be made to sections of the Local Government Ordinance which deal specifically with abandoned vehicles, control of parks and reserves, and dangerous materials. Would the executive member please inform me when these urgent amendments will be introduced into this Assembly?

ANSWER

I suppose the question comes from the honourable member because he, as an alderman in previous years, has been frustrated by the absence of proper and workable local government amendments to allow bylaws to be appropriately made. I am doing everything I can to get a legislative proposal before this House. I am frustrated, like him, in trying to get it before this House. The history, of course, is as usual a long one, with ineptitudes I think on many sides. At the moment we have, as all honourable members will find during the course of this sittings, a very extensive legislative program to be introduced into this House. I am afraid the pressures on the drafting staff - and they have worked very well and very hard - the pressures of work on them simply mean that in some areas there are going to be delays. Unfortunately, local government seems to be one of those victims.

285 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Can he give a report to the Assembly either now or in the adjournment debate on the damage to Stokes Hill Wharf by the West Australian State Ship MV Beroona?

ANSWER

I seek leave to table a report on the damage to the Stokes Hill Wharf by MV Beroona.

Leave granted.

286 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr ROBERTSON

What approaches has he made to the federal Minister for Education regarding the reinstatement of the theatrette at Dripstone High School and how successful have those approaches been?

ANSWER

I have argued with the good gentleman until I am blue in the face and the results have been nil. That does not mean that I will give up.

287 Mr OLIVER to Mr ROBERTSON

I understand that the Minister for Education is seeking advice on general schooling and staffing matters in the Northern Territory. Can he assure me that particular attention will be paid to the peculiar situation existing at Traeger Park School?

ANSWER

The problems with Traeger Park School are recognised right through the education system. In fact, it is interesting that the minister himself, in a casual conversation with me, indicated that he is aware of the peculiar nature of the requirements of the Traeger Park Primary School. It seems to be one of those problems that we have been surrounded with in so many areas in the Northern Territory in that arbitrary and baseless staff ceilings have been imposed. The difficulty seems to be to get through to the Public

Service Board, not so much to the Commonwealth Teaching Service. The attitude seems to prevail in some quarters that, unless you are a fulltime teacher in normal curriculum activities, you are not to be regarded as being a formula staff member. I understand that the Director of Education has taken this matter up on repeated occasions in Canberra and I understand now that, due to his efforts, some significant progress has been made.

288 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

I refer to his press release of 22 February 1978 in reference to the work of officers of the Grants Commission. Will he table the assessment completed by those officers?

ANSWER

I would ask the Opposition Leader to place his question on notice as I do not recall the exact terms of my press statement of 22 February.

289 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr PERRON

Is Mr Brooks still a member of the Town Planning Board? If Mr Brooks is still a member of the Town Planning Board, does he intend to terminate that appointment in view of the fact that Mr Brooks has not been resident in the Northern Territory for the last three years?

ANSWER

Mr Brooks resigned from his position on the Town Planning Board some time ago, and Mr Milburn of my finance unit has been appointed in his place.

290 Mr VALE to Mr ROBERTSON

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Will he provide details of why schools at some Aboriginal communities are not operating this year?

ANSWER

I would assume that the two schools in question are Numbulwar and Roper. On my understanding, Numbulwar is in fact still operating although there are grave causes for concern among the teachers there as to personal safety and security. The Department of Education is examining this as a matter of urgency. It is a matter of cost as much as anything else. The big problem is not so much the school itself but the security of the accommodation for teachers. There was a recent unfortunate incident there which is the subject of legal proceedings at the moment.

The position at Roper is far more serious because that school has been closed for some time now. The reason was vandalism. The toilet facilities were rendered inoperable by wanton vandalism. The extraordinary thing is that the people who caused the damage are those for whom the school was built. The town council at Roper acted very responsibly in this matter. In consultation with the Department of Education it agreed that if the school was temporarily closed it would give the council a little more ammunition to go back to the people concerned and point out to them the results of their actions. The Director of Education and the Acting Director of Aboriginal Affairs in the Northern Territory are going out to Roper early this month to talk again to the council and it is hoped that, following that discussion and discussions with the children out there, the school will be able to open very shortly.

291 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr ROBERTSON

This question is directed to the honourable member in his liaison responsibility for education but the Executive Member for Finance and Planning may also have an interest as it concerns demountable housing. How many demountable units have been made available to the Department of Education for emergency use in the schools and are there any requests outstanding for such accommodation?

ANSWER

The honourable member for Nightcliff rarely asks questions like that; I think with anyone else I would have said put it on notice but considering it came from that source, I will make sure the information is available today, if I possibly can.

292 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr EVERINGHAM

With regard to the proposed block 8 cafeteria, has consideration been given by the government to the moving of the large pieces of kitchen equipment to certain government institutions like hospitals or hostels?

ANSWER

The block 8 cafeteria is a responsibility of the federal government - in fact, one of its statutory agencies, Commonwealth Hostels Ltd. I certainly have not given any consideration to the moving of the equipment in that cafeteria to other large government institutions. I could certainly take this up with Commonwealth Hostels Ltd and attempt to obtain such information for the honourable member before the conclusion of this sittings.

293 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

Is he aware that the Prices Commissioner's Office which has a staff establishment of twelve, I think, has recently only had two officers actually working there? Can he use his influence to ensure that the number of officers working in this important field will soon be increased?

ANSWER

I am aware of a great run down in the staff of that particular office. I would be happy to discuss this matter with the honourable member later and perhaps swap some ideas with her. I am not anxious at this stage to increase staff establishment in that direction if it proves after July that that particular move is not in the best interests of consumerism and consumer protection. I am having a complete review done and I have recently had a meeting of the full Consumer Protection Council and its public service officer to try and get, at long last - and this has been pointed out by the honourable member on previous occasions - workable, forceful and effective consumer protection legislation in the Northern Territory. I am not entirely convinced that building up the bureaucracy in that particular branch is an answer to our problem at all. In fact, it is my belief - and I have said so in this place many times previously - that that form of remote arbitrary, over-the-top price control is just nothing but an ineffectual interference in private enterprise. I do not believe it is in the interests of the consumer to do it in that manner at all.

294 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr ROBERTSON

As a decision has been made to build a new high school at Nhulunbuy, can

he tell me what steps have been taken to see that single and married teacher accommodation is built along with the school?

ANSWER

I for one certainly would not like to see a three, four or five or whatever million dollar high school built at Nhulunbuy and then find ourselves in a position where either no teacher is willing to go there because he has not got any accommodation or the day after it opens, everyone goes on strike because of unsatisfactory accommodation. The reality of it is the Department of Education and the Department of the Northern Territory, as long as that department exists - because it has responsibility for housing in that area - have simply got to get together and they have to plan and coordinate the two functions: the building of the high school and the provision of adequate and appropriate accommodation for professional people.

295 Mr COLLINS to Mr PERRON

Is it intended to change the name of the Housing Commission in the foreseeable future?

ANSWER

This matter has not been formally looked at at this stage - whether or not the title of the Housing Commission should be changed, in line with moves towards setting up a single housing authority for the Northern Territory which is the previously expressed Majority Party's policy. So in response to the honourable member's question, I can just say that no formal look at the question has been taken at this stage.

296 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

I understand that new developments have taken place with regard to Dr Peter Hooper's proposed overseas trip. Could the executive member inform the House of those developments?

ANSWER

In answer to a question yesterday I advised honourable members that Dr Peter Hooper, Northern Territory Veterinary Officer, was to undertake an overseas trip to countries which have imposed restrictions on cattle imports because of the blue tongue situation in the Territory. Members will recall that the purpose of Dr Hooper's visit was to brief veterinary officers overseas on the current situation in Australia and our own cattle movement requirements, and to seek, by personal representations, agreement on satisfactory health requirements to protect importing countries. He is the best qualified official to undertake this task. His visit was to include Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea. I now have to inform the Assembly that under circumstances which I consider totally intolerable, Dr Hooper's visit has had to be cancelled. Late yesterday afternoon I was advised that Commonwealth Department of the Northern Territory senior officers had refused to approve leave for Dr Hooper so that he could undertake this very important task and that the trip would not be recognised by the federal government. The only solution was for Dr Hooper to resign, to act on the Territory's behalf. This, of course, was totally out of the question and unacceptable to me and the executive. This move by federal authorities typifies the apathy shown by them to the plight of the Territory cattlemen and is another example of remote control and a lack of understanding of local matters.

Members may be assured that I will not let this matter rest.

297 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

Can he advise the current position concerning the opening of the Alice Springs abattoir for this year's killing season?

ANSWER

My limited information is that the Alice Springs abattoir, after having used the cattlemen to get themselves a US quota, is now offering prices which the cattlemen find almost impossible to accept. The abattoir is offering something like 11.5 cents per pound which is roughly the equivalent of the Adelaide prices notwithstanding the freight. Some pressure will have to be put on the meatworks to pay better prices. What they are offering is not acceptable and they need a good poke in the ribs with a sharp stick.

298 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr STEELE

Can he advise whether drafting instructions have been given for legislation to control the use of antibiotics in stockfeed?

ANSWER

No drafting instructions have been given for the preparation of legislation to control antibiotics in stockfeed?

299 Mr HARRIS to Mr STEELE

Why are there so few public telephones within the municipality of Darwin? Can Telecom be approached with a view to replacing all of those telephones which were damaged or removed as a result of the cyclone, with the highest priority being given to those in areas where houses were either not destroyed or have been replaced since the cyclone?

ANSWER

I do not know why. We will give them another poke with a sharp stick.

309 Mr VALE to Mr ROBERTSON

My question is asked on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. Who will be entitled to vote at the Katherine and Tennant Creek elections for town councils?

ANSWER

The people who will be entitled to vote at the town council elections in both Katherine and Tennant Creek are those within the prescribed municipal boundaries whose names appear on the federal electoral roll. The boundaries have been determined by the Administrator in Council and are in accordance with the original plans provided with the offers. The electoral office will be providing rolls for the returning officers in both of those centres. One point that I might raise concerns the area in Tennant Creek known as the battery area. This has been excluded from the municipal boundary for Tennant Creek. As a result of information provided and some representations, there would seem no reason why the people in the battery area should not be included in the municipal boundary. The executive will perhaps be advising his Honour at a later date to have that boundary altered.

310 Mr ISAACS to Mr ROBERTSON

My question refers to the handover to Katherine and Tennant Creek of local government status. Can he assure the Assembly that all members of municipal gangs at Katherine and Tennant Creek will be retained by the new local councils from 1 July 1978?

ANSWER

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question because this has exercised our concern considerably. I have been in communication with the relevant union organiser and have in fact invited him to discuss with the Public Service Commissioner and myself the future of the municipal gangs and also the temporary employees in the municipal gangs. It would certainly not be the intention of this side of the House to see those people displaced from their employment. It is necessary for us to talk with the unions involved. Incidentally, I have heard nothing further from that particular organiser although I did send him a letter thanking him for his interest and concern in the first place. I still look forward to that meeting with the union organiser and the Public Service Commissioner in order that we may assure the future of these people.

311 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr EVERINGHAM

What price has been asked and what price is the government prepared to pay for the two station, Mudginberry and Munmalary, for final inclusion in the Kakadu National Park?

ANSWER

I am unable to provide the information sought by the honourable member for Tiwi without notice. I will endeavour to obtain that information during the course of the remainder of this sittings.

312 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it envisaged that, when the Northern Territory School of Nursing is operating from Casuarina Hospital, a course in midwifery will be included?

ANSWER

I do not have the information available to answer the honourable member's question. However, I will endeavour to obtain it and provide it later in this sittings.

313 Mr HARRIS to Mr PERRON

Have the three blocks of land on which it is proposed to build the three new neighbourhood centres been vested in the city corporation as yet? If the answer is no, could he please indicate when these blocks are likely to be handed over to the corporation?

ANSWER

I understand the Minister for the Northern Territory has approved in principle the granting of these leases to the corporation, subject to certain zoning changes which have to take place over some of them. The corporation has been advised of this commitment on 26 January this year. The leases will issue when the zoning problems are resolved and these are being dealt with by the chief planning officer in accordance with statutory requirements.

314 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr STEELE

What is the composition of the Darwin Traffic Committee? What are the functions of the Darwin Traffic Committee? Are meetings of the Darwin Traffic Committee open to the public and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

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

315 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

Can he advise if there has been any recent detection of the mediterranean fruit fly in Central Australia and when the embargo on the movement of fruit outside the quarantine area will be lifted?

ANSWER

Monitoring has been continued although there has been no report of flies in traps or maggots in stone fruit. Action has been taken to lift present quarantine restrictions imposed on the area of 50 kilometres radius of the Alice Springs post office. The eradication program can be regarded as being completely successful.

316 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

Has a decision been made about the future of the old Darwin golf course at Fannie Bay? Will it be incorporated into the East Point Reserve or is another use being considered for it?

ANSWER

No firm decision has been taken by the executive yet as to the future of the old Darwin golf course. However, I do expect that submissions will come forward in the near future to have this matter finalised.

317 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr ROBERTSON

Could he supply me with the number of students who have received school isolation allowances, tertiary student allowances and special education allowances for the year 1977?

ANSWER

I am aware of and appreciate the honourable member for Nhulunbuy's concern in this area. It seems to be one of his more regular pursuits to ensure that people in isolated communities in his area obtain justice under the allowances scheme. I am, unfortunately, unable to give him precise details at this stage and I would undertake to do so later in the sittings.

318 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

He would be aware of my interest in the Construction Safety Ordinance. He would be aware that it was passed in December 1975. He would also be aware that the regulations were completed for the ordinance by the middle of 1977 and sent to the draftsmen, and that the non-implementation of the ordinance is causing severe safety problems to workers and sloppy building practices in the building industry. Can the executive member inform the Assembly whether the Master Builders Association has exerted an undue influence to ensure that the regulations to that Construction Safety Ordinance are not promulgated and, secondly, due to his interest in an answer to a similar question I asked him on 22 November 1977, will he inform the Assembly when the regulations will be promulgated and when the ordinance will be brought into effect?

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable member, the first part of the question is a matter of opinion. The honourable Executive Member for Transport and Industry can answer the other two if he desires.

ANSWER

I do not know if the Master Builders Association has exerted any undue influence over departmental people to stop them proposing regulations. I would have to be an oracle to even give a forecast on something like that. As far as the introduction of the construction safety legislation is concerned, I have with me at the moment a second-reading speech and I am hopeful that the legislation will be ready for introduction on Thursday.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, it would save a lot of time if questions were phrased in accordance with Standing Orders, and matters of opinion were not sought.

319 Mr VALE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is he aware of rumours circulating pertaining to a proposal to remove air fares and accommodation entitlements from members of the Northern Territory Police Force? If so, have the rumours any basis in fact?

ANSWER

No, I was not aware that any such rumours were circulating because it is a long time since I have had a chance, in fact had time, to have a drink with policemen - and that is normally where you pick up their rumours - but I can say unequivocally that there is no substantiation for any such rumours, and police entitlements to air fares and accommodation will

remain exactly as they are ad infinitum, as far as I am aware.

320 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

I draw the attention of the executive member to a report in yesterday's NT News concerning a joint fishing venture about to get under way in Victoria. Did he note that mention was made in the article of Russian interest in a similar venture operating out of Darwin? In view of this, will he undertake to seek further information and promote an investigation into the feasibility of such a scheme?

ANSWER

I do recall the article the honourable member refers to. It is of real concern to this executive that the fishing industry is not being developed in a proper and profitable manner, and we will be doing our best to look at any sort of scheme that people from overseas or anywhere else would like to put to us. It is certainly something that we want to see get off the ground.

321 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr SPEAKER

Since you last informed the House on the subject, have you received any ministerial notification or direction as to a permanent site for a new Parliament House and on the funding for the same?

ANSWER

I have had no communication of any import from the government about the site for a new Parliament House.

322 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr EVERINGHAM

What price is being asked and what price is the government prepared to pay for the Border Store, to hand it over to the Gunbalanya Council?

ANSWER

My answer to that question from the honourable member for Tiwi must be the same as my answer to her last question. I will seek the information for her.

323 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

When can I expect an answer to the question I asked on 27 February this year relating to the signing of a lease agreement between the Northern Territory Port Authority and V.B. Perkins and Company?

ANSWER

Drawing the House's attention to this question which is in today's question paper, I would point out that this is the first I have seen of it personally.

324 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr PERRON

Because government houses at Gove have been designed for airconditioning, could he tell me what steps have been taken to install units in each house?

ANSWER

The simple answer to the question is that no steps have been taken to install airconditioning in these houses. The Department of the Northern Territory has advised me that Nabalco constructed houses for their own staff at Gove and provided airconditioning in the whole house. The Commonwealth government decided to have Nabalco construct a number of similar houses for Commonwealth public servants but, because it is not government policy to provide airconditioning in its houses, the airconditioning was not included but the necessary ducting was allowed for. It would cost about $3,500 per house to install airconditioning units and I understand the Commonwealth government has no present plans to do this. I am further advised that the tenants are not keen to have airconditioning installed because of the high operating costs.

325 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr EVERINGHAM

When will the land valuation function which is currently undertaken by a division of the Australian Taxation Office be transferred to the control of the Northern Territory executive?

ANSWER

I believe that the responsibility for the function will be transferred to the Northern Territory executive on 1 July this year. However, at this stage, I am not aware of any proposal that the Northern Territory executive set up its own valuer-general's office. For some time at least, the Northern Territory executive would continue to use the Commonwealth Taxation Office's valuers on an agency basis.

326 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

Can he supply any details of the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication scheme for the 1978-79 season?

ANSWER

I have some information provided by the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch. The total cost of operations for 1978-79 has been estimated to be $1,220,000, excluding $215,000 for compensation. This is an increase of 24½% on the estimated expenditure for 1977-78. In the 1978-79 year, they expect to make 427,000 tests for TB and 250,000 tests for brucellosis.

327 Mr DOOLAN to Mr TUXWORTH

Has an environmental clearance been given to the Mary Anne recreation lake project?

ANSWER

To my knowledge, the proposed Mary Anne dam project would not be subject to an environmental impact study.

328 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Does he intend to present at this session legislation dealing with legal aid in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

It is not the intention of the executive to present legislation dealing

with legal aid at this sittings. It may be that, at some future sittings of the Assembly, we will be in a position to present legislation dealing with the matter of legal aid. At the present time, the legal aid setup in the Northern Territory is administered by the Australian Legal Aid Office. I understand that this situation will continue until such time as agreement can be reached on legislation and an arrangement set up for the Territory to be funded by the Commonwealth to provide legal aid. At present, I am waiting further details from the Attorney-General's Department in Canberra on a number of matters that I submitted to them last year.

329 Mr VALE to Mr ROBERTSON

Can he advise any details concerning the proposed meeting in Alice Springs this Wednesday night relating to the new high school presently under construction in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

The question of the use of a multi-million dollar high school is something of a sick joke. That we should be holding public meetings to determine the future need of it must reflect - and I say this at the risk of disloyalty but I would be remiss if I didn't - some lack of planning somewhere. The Director of Education, Dr Eedle, has gone to Alice Springs to try to resolve the conflict which seems to have evolved in that town over the future of the new Sadadene High School. I do not believe the fault lies so much with the Department of Education; I think the community has become concerned to make sure that the best possible use is made of the facility. A meeting will be held on Wednesday between interested people in the town, the Northern Territory Council for Government Schools Organisations representatives and the Teachers Federation to try to resolve the question of that high school's future. Various proposals have been put forward. One is to convert it into a senior high school. I would imagine that would involve having years 10, 11, 12 and perhaps even year 9. The proposal that follows from that is that the Alice Springs High School would become a junior high school. I can imagine that the incumbent principal of the Alice Springs High School may not like that idea very much. The other proposal is to convert half of it to the use of the Alice Springs Community College, the other half being a conventional high school. The reason is that the projected population growth of the late 1960s and early 1970s simply has not come to pass and therefore there will not be the requirement for places for so many secondary students as was originally dreamed up, God knows how, by some planners. The problem in converting it for the use of the community college and a high school is its very nature. The problem lies in the nature of the plan, the nature of the architecture. It is more or less an open-plan school and, as such, there are no simply defined two halves. I cannot see that proposal working either. I hope that, with the wisdom of Dr Eedle and the help of Our Lord, we might have an answer by the end of this week.

330 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Is he aware that the rate charged by workmen's compensation insurers in respect of Territory fishermen is 35% of salary? Is he aware that this high rate is preventing development of the Territory fishing industry? Will he investigate the matter and, particularly, will he advise the Assembly at a later date why Territory rates are so much higher than those in Western Australia or Queensland?

ANSWER

Whenever I talk to fishermen, they mention the fact that they have to pay the highest rates for workmen's compensation of anywhere in Australia. I do not know how we can bring this down. The investigations that I have carried out so far have given me some information. In the states, the Government Insurance Office subsidises the workmen's compensation rate for fishermen. This is charged against other types of insurance. I am still looking at the matter but I do not know what the answer is.

331 Mr HARRIS to Mr TUXWORTH

Has approval been given for land on which to set up, in the short term, a tourist information centre to be used for the "Back to Darwin" celebrations and for a permanent tourist information centre at the entrance to the city of Darwin?

ANSWER

I do not have the information available about the provision of a tourist information centre at the entrance to Darwin. However, I can advise the honourable member that the "Back to Darwin" committee, which has been very active and very productive in its work, has sought cooperation from both ourselves and the Department of the Northern Territory in having the old tourist bureau site in Smith Street made available to place caravans or a demountable from which they could promote their "Back to Darwin" activities.

The committee has been given two caravans by the Department of the Northern Territory. The latest information available to me was that the caravans were unsuitable and that the committee had obtained, through its own devices, a 40 x 10 x 8 demountable which it intends to move on site for the period of the "Back to Darwin" celebrations.

As a further bit of information in relation to this, it is my understanding that the Tourist Promotion Association will be taking up joint office space with the Northern Territory Government Tourist Bureau when the bureau moves into its new office.

332 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Did he hear the views of the managing director of Radial Industries last Friday regarding the future of the Northern Territory economy? Will the Majority Leader approach the Australian government for additional funds for capital expenditure in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

This questions raises an interesting topic. I certainly have not heard the views of the managing director of Radial Industries on the Northern Territory economy. Perhaps, one might have thought that, if he was concerned with the Northern Territory economy, he would have made his views known to me. I do understand that this company has recently gone into either receivership or liquidation. From my practice in 1973 or 1974, I recall that the company was in receivership or liquidation at that stage. Presumably, like a number of other companies some of which have since gone bust, it was saved by the miracle of the cyclone in that there was so much work around that they managed to keep going for another few years. If this company has gone into liquidation, I am perturbed. However, it may not be the Northern Territory economy that causes these things. It may be inefficient management. It could be tendering for contracts at an unnecessarily

low rate. It could be a number of things. I do not believe it is possible to blame these things on the Northern Territory economy alone. At the present time, I have heard from substantial building contractors that there are more contracts going at the moment than they know how to cope with. That may surprise members because all we read in the newspaper is the wailing and lamentation. If members want to hear some cheerful news, then I suggest they speak to a few of the leading building contractors.

333 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

My question concerns the Housing Commission. There are many older people on low incomes who are living in single hostel rooms in this town because single people or two people of the same sex are generally not entitled to Housing Commission accommodation. Is it possible that Housing Commission policy can be changed to provide accommodation for these people or must they enter into defacto relationships to obtain Housing Commission accommodation?

ANSWER

Concerning that part of the question which asks if it is possible to alter Housing Commission accommodation eligibility policy, certainly it is. However, before giving any undertaking that such a thing will be done, I would be pleased to get copies of the Housing Commission policy on eligibility for single persons, irrespective of their age, and provide it to the honourable member. If some suggestions can be put forward, I am sure the Housing Commission will be prepared to consider them and discuss it with myself and, if there is any need for a change, then certainly we would look into it to make that change. However, I believe the Housing Commission makes considerable provision for pensioner accommodation and I know for certain that, in that particular case, it is not limited to dual units. Certainly, single pensioners have Housing Commission units.

334 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

I will preface my question with the remarks that pastoralists generally are concerned that meatworks' opening prices will be inadequate. Has the executive member taken steps to ensure that meatworks' opening prices will be acceptable?

ANSWER

I have been in touch with meatworks and producer organisations, and cattlemen as individuals, to try to get the feel of the opening rounds of what the cattle industry will do this year. It seems that some prices are fairly low and we are concerned that, with the non-existence this year of a reliable live export trade, the meatworks will enjoy a really good time.

I transmitted my views to the managing director of Alice Springs abattoir, Mr Whittaker, and he cannot be short of money because he sent me a three-foot telex reply. I should provide the House with some of this information. There is only a small bit here really. He does go fairly crook at me for trying to undermine his position as an abattoir manager; I was more concerned with the cattlemen, myself. But he did say to me in this telex that the quota provided to Alice Springs was 2,000 tons. This represents 15,000 cattle of approximately 500 lbs. He says, "Our prices are based on the current USA market values for these 15,000 and were calculated as follows: steers, 800 lbs and over - 26 cents per lb dressed weight; steers, 700 to 800 lbs - 27 cents; steers, 600 to 700 lbs - 26 cents; steers and cows, 500 to 600 lbs - 24 cents; steers and cows, 400 to 500 lbs - 20

cents; steers and cows, 300 to 400 lbs - 14 cents." He goes on to say that in recent weeks growers have confirmed to him that the Adelaide price for bullocks over 600 lbs was 11 cents, cows approximately 500 lbs - 6 cents, bullocks over 800 lbs - 13½ cents, steers and cows - 8 cents. He makes the point that abattoirs in South Australia buying those cattle also benefit from a quota which means, in fact, they could be paying those higher prices.

In conclusion, he gives a fair sort of a serve. He says, "Our prices are not unrealistic. They are all together realistic to current market conditions, painfully so for both grower and ourselves. You have asked us to ensure continued viability of the NT cattle industry to provide a return and incentive whereby cattlemen can continue to believe in its future. Your peers give the quota away to others and you ask a hundred dollar company to do what your cabinet, the federal government, stock agents, trading banks, insurance houses, American multi-nationals have failed to do: namely, underpin the industry. There was more than a touch of the quixotic which brought your people to Alice, but what you are asking of us is getting into biblical realms. We are clean out of miracles this year. You will see we sign ourselves off as Alice Springs Abattoirs Pty Ltd - not Moses Incorporated. Roger, get us the 10,000 ton quota sought and together we can part the seas, make the deserts flourish and accomplish similar Zanuck-type deeds. George P. Whittaker, Managing Director, Alice Springs Abattoirs Pty Ltd." I must say though, Mr Speaker, that my concern is with the total industry in the Northern Territory, not just with George P. Whittaker, Alice Springs Abattoirs.

340 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Does he recall his answer to question 273 from the member for Stuart where he told him that members were obliged to present petitions that were presented to them by their constituents and that it was customary to do so without demure? Has he received a letter from a constituent with an accompanying petition calling for a referendum? If so, why hasn't he presented the petition and does he intend to do so?

ANSWER

I do recall the question from the member for Stuart. I have received a petition with a letter from a constituent of mine. On inspection of the petition, I found the signatories to the petition came from the suburbs of Anula and Wulagi which relate to the electorate of Sanderson. I have returned it to the constituent with a request that it be presented to the member for Sanderson for presentation to this House.

341 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr EVERINGHAM

I direct a question on behalf of the member for Elsey. In view of the need to prevent the extinction of the cattle industry in the Top End, will the Northern Territory executive give urgent consideration to the establishment of a Territory meat and livestock commission which will bring local knowledge to bear on providing prices for beef related to the costs of production, developing new markets and eradicating blue tongue and other diseases within the endemic areas and other problems of the industry?

ANSWER

The Majority Party certainly recognizes the tragic situation in which a good number, if not most, of Northern Territory pastoralists are now placed by the advent of the blue tongue disease, particularly within the Top End. It is the Majority Party's intention to establish a department of industrial development about which I will have more to say after question time. It is also hoped that it may be possible to establish something in the nature of a development corporation and I would hope that this corporation would take up, as one of its major objects, the promotion of sales of Territory cattle both within Australia and overseas.

342 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

My question is asked on behalf of the member for Elsey. Does the poor quality of TV reception concern either Telecom who provide the communication channels or the ABC who pay for them?

ANSWER

I am advised that the standard of the microwave service between Darwin and Mt Isa is equal to that anywhere else in Australia. Because of the technical nature of my inquiries to Telecom, I would seek leave of the House to table this letter and have it included in Hansard.

Mr SPEAKER: I find the document suitable for insertion in Hansard. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

Mr R.M. Steele
Cabinet Member for Transport and Industry
Legislative Assembly for the N.T.
DARWIN

Dear Roger,

I hope the following notes may be of assistance to you in respect of quality of TV reception in the N.T.

Telecom Australia as the provider of the communication channels which bring live TV transmission from other parts of Australia to the Northern Territory, and as the operator of the TV transmitting station equipment at Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs is vitally concerned with the quality of transmission and we believe that within the existing constraints the best possible transmission is being provided.

With respect to reception and area of coverage of the transmitting stations in the N.T., it is pertinent to observe that with the exception of Darwin, the transmitters are of limited power output, the stations being designed to each cover only the restricted area of the respective towns. The effective radiated power of a station is a function of the antenna design as well as the transmitter power and the antenna design is commonly arranged to concentrate a proportion of the radiated signal in a particular direction to meet specified service area needs. The N.T. stations follow this pattern and in the case of the National TV station in Darwin for example, whereas in general the nominal limit of useful signal strength extends within an approx. 50 km radius concentration of the radiated signal in the general direction of the Stuart Highway going South from Darwin ensures that this same signal strength is achieved at Batchelor which is approx. 70 km distant. Of course reception at any specific location may be affected by properties peculiar to that location - e.g. there may be isolated obstacles in the radiation path from the transmitter.

With regard to transmission of TV programmes from Brisbane to Darwin, some comment on the philosophy of a protection bearer for a microwave system and TV transmission may be relevant. Each microwave system is provided with a protection bearer for each group of main bearers (each group has from one to five main bearers) and the system design is such as to ensure that in the event of propagation fading conditions affecting a main bearer the protection bearer, which would not be simultaneously similarly affected, will automatically be switched into circuit for the fade duration which typically varies from a few micro seconds to perhaps seconds at a time. Between Brisbane and Mt Isa, the TV transmission is carried by a main bearer and substantially the protection bearer associated with this and a small group of telephony bearers will protect against short term duration fading outages of the TV bearer. The Mt Isa to Darwin microwave link was not designed to carry full time TV on a "studio to transmitter" basis although it satisfies the normal requirements of a main video link - normally used for occasional programme relay between capital cities. As the TV transmission over this section is carried on the protection bearer for the telephony system, it is subject to short duration interruptions when the protection bearer switches to maintain the main telephony system. Additionally of course, the protection bearer itself may at other times suffer momentary partial failure.

Continuous monitoring of the telephony bearer provides a record of performance of that bearer, including a record of actual interruptions and of instances where the protection bearer switched itself into circuit to prevent a telephony interruption. No such continuous monitoring of

the TV bearer is undertaken, and it is unreasonable to attempt to co-relate telephony and TV bearer performance, apart from saying that a period in which a large number of changeovers to the protection bearer occurred is bound to reflect in a large number of breaks in the received TV signal.

Such information gathered from telephony monitoring indicate that performance in the wet season is noticeably worse than in the dry season. On any one day performance in the time period 2000 hrs - 2400 hrs is noticeably worse than in the period 0800 - 2000 hrs. This is a characteristic of microwave radio propagation over conditions such as are encountered on this route.

The performance during the period 0001 hrs - 0800 hrs is in fact noticeably worse than the 2000 - 2400 hr period; however, there is generally no TV interest during this period.

During October - November 1977 there were 23 outages of greater than 5 seconds duration resulting in total down time for the telephony bearer of only 0.01% time.

During December-January 1978 however, only 9 outages resulted in a down time for the telephony bearer of 0.44% time. One assumption is that performance during this period is characterised by breaks of considerably longer duration than those which occur during drier months.

A special recording analysis of interruptions on the incoming TV programme at Darwin was arranged during one day in January 1978 as a special exercise. This showed that on that particular day a total of 349 seconds of lost programme resulted, mainly between the hours of 2030 and 2230 C.S.T. Most of the breaks were short and the longest was one of 90 seconds at 2134 hours. Our shift technician manually records what he considers to be significant interruptions or bursts of interruptions where the intelligibility of programme is badly marred. On this day the only entries recorded were -

between 2030 and 2035 hours C.S.T. Total of 30 secs. marring
" 2112 " 2114 " " " " 60 " "
" 2127 " 2146 " " " " 5 mins "

A subjective interpretation of the performance on that day was that it was rather worse than average and probably only 20% of the nights would ordinarily be that bad. (This was of course only a very rough estimate).

I hope this information will be of assistance to you.

Kind regards,

B.D. WOODROW
SUPERVISING ENGINEER

8/3/78

343 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

How many traffic accidents have there been in Wells Street, Ludmilla, over the past three years? Can an impact study be made of the very serious and increasing traffic problems in Wells Street?

ANSWER

It so happens I have a little information about this matter. I am advised that no realistic figures are available for the period after the cyclone until 31 October 1976. During this period, poor lighting and unsafe vehicles contributed to the high minor accident rate in the city and it would not be reasonable to use figures during this period in any evaluation of the true situation. I can say that there were ten accidents between the period 31 October 1976 to 30 September 1977, as a result of which 14 people were injured. Most of these occurred at the intersection of Wells Street and Bagot Road. The Department of Transport and Industry has now established a working arrangement with the corporation and they will be looking at the problems in Wells Street at an early time.

344 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

Is he aware that lessees of agricultural leases in the Berrimah area who have applied to subdivide their land are being requested to supply to the Town Planning Board information relating to major drainage problems in the Berrimah area? Does the Town Planning Board not already have this information, in view of the fact that in 1974 it put forward an extensive industrial subdivision proposal in the area? If the board does have such information, what is the reason for seeking this information from private citizens?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the details of what the board may have requested of some applicants for subdivision in the Berrimah area. However, it is quite reasonable to expect applicants for subdivisions to provide evidence of their intentions as far as drainage is concerned, as there are considerable drainage problems in some of the industrial areas of Darwin. Every attempt is being made to alleviate these problems and overcome difficulties which are being experienced in developed areas, although in some cases it is too late to do very much about it.

345 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

Is it true that electricity consumers will now have to pay cash on receipt of accounts and that time payment will not be permitted?

ANSWER

No.

346 Mr VALE to Mr ROBERTSON

My question is asked on behalf of the member for Elsey. In view of the filthy condition of litter bins, will they be cleaned and painted before the "Back to Darwin" week?

ANSWER

Quite frankly, I had not noticed that they were all that filthy. I must say that I am very pleased to see there are so many litter bins in Darwin. However, I think the idea is an excellent one and I will refer it to the Darwin City Corporation.

347 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

In light of the reply to a previous question, could he advise the House why certain of my constituents who this week approached the ESU asking for time to pay their accounts were refused point blank and told that, unless they paid the account, the electricity would be cut off? I have a copy of the account if he wishes to see it later.

ANSWER

The appropriate way to go about this would have been for honourable members to take up the matter themselves with the Department of the Northern Territory on behalf of their constituents. That is a fairly normal practice. It would be difficult to try to lump all consumers in the Northern Territory into one group. Certainly, there has been in the past - and to my knowledge there has been no change - a policy whereby, if difficulties can be shown, time payment is allowed. However, at times, requests for time payment are of the order of a few cents a week in which case the account would never be cleared. No doubt some consumers are probably refused further time to pay. Every case has to be viewed on its particular merits. I suggest that the honourable member either supply evidence to myself or take the matter up directly with the Department of the Northern Territory on each individual case.

348 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr ROBERTSON

The MACOS course, "Man - a Course of Study", has been given some adverse publicity recently. Is he aware of this? Has the course been accepted for all schools in the Northern Territory? If so, have there been any complaints on the content of the course?

ANSWER

This course has not been introduced into all schools in the Northern Territory. I am advised by the Department of Education that there are 23 schools currently using the system which normally uses a rotational system for distribution of video tapes, information books and pamphlets. I am assured by the Department of Education that the course is very carefully introduced and is being monitored constantly. I think this is the type of role where school committees and school councils can become involved in parents' and friends' associations which is part of the democratisation, if you like, of education in the Northern Territory. If there was wide-spread disatisfaction with any course introduced for educative process of our children, then through school councils and committees, the Department of Education and myself ultimately ought to have these areas of concern brought to us in order that, in response to community wishes, we can then re-analyse whatever courses we are conducting.

349 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

Why were signs erected by the land council indicating sacred sites in the Kakadu park area, protected by section 69 of the federal Aboriginal Land Rights Act, removed by officers of the wildlife section and, secondly, have these signs been re-erected?

ANSWER

I do not have any knowledge of the personal motives of the officers of the wildlife section who took down the signs.

Mr Collins: I do.

Mr TUXWORTH: I do regard the removal of the signs as a most unfortunate incident and one that should never have occurred. I have had discussions with the Director of Parks and Wildlife and I can give an undertaking now that, as soon as it is physically possible, the signs will be restored to the position they were in and when the officers go out to restore the signs, they will be taking with them a representative of the Northern Land Council, who will be able to advise the officers of the Parks and Wildlife Commission just where the signs should be put.

350 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr ROBERTSON

This question is asked having regard to his liaison responsibilities for the Education Department. Can he supply an answer to the question I asked last week, from the Department of Education of course, as to whether that department had asked the Department of the Northern Territory for demountable accommodation for use in high schools and, if so, if the request had been acceded to? He did undertake to get the information.

ANSWER

I must apologise to the honourable member for Nightcliff; the machinery seems to have broken down somewhere. If any of my staff are listening, Mr Speaker, I hope it is carried out today.

351 Mr HARRIS to Mr PERRON

Does the honourable executive member propose to follow up allegations in this House last Tuesday in relation to a member of the Town Planning Board?

ANSWER

I have requested the chairman of the Town Planning Board to inquire into the allegations made by the honourable member for Sanderson and to provide me with a detailed report of his findings. Until that report is received, no further action will be taken.

352 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

He will recall a statement that he made in Alice Springs on 11 October 1977, that he had instructed statutory bodies to try to participate in the federal government youth training schemes. Can he now tell the Assembly what the situation is with regard to this matter?

ANSWER

I certainly do recall the statement I made in Alice Springs - not only did I make the statement in Alice Springs but I actually followed it up with a number of memoranda circulated on my behalf by the director-general of the Chief Secretary's Department. I am not aware whether any people were employed under these particular schemes but I could certainly ascertain that information for the honourable Leader of the Opposition. I understand that government departments are not able to participate in the scheme but I was of the understanding that statutory authorities could, in relation to attempting to relieve unemployment. For instance, the executive has introduced the finance officer-in-training scheme and I believe there is also a scheme shortly to be introduced in relation to training cadet fire officers.

353 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr PERRON

What plans are afoot for the further reasonable reticulation of electricity in the rural area? What criteria are used to establish a need in a certain area, and who are the people making these decisions? What amount of money will be allocated for this service?

ANSWER

The question requires some detailed information and I suggest that it be placed on notice so that complete details can be provided to the honourable member.

354 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Has the Corporation of the City of Darwin or any of its agents made an application to the Darwin Cyclone Tracy Relief Trust Fund for moneys to enable the purchase of the block of land adjacent to the Travelodge on the Esplanade, presently occupied by the Herald and Weekly Times house?

ANSWER

I cannot give an unequivocal answer to that question this morning but I would certainly undertake to do so within the next few days. To the best of my knowledge, however, no such application has been made.

355 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr PERRON

Did the honourable member notice a list of lots which are claimed to have vacant houses on them in the NT News recently and, if so, does he know why these houses have been vacant for so long?

ANSWER

In replying to a question earlier during these sittings as to how many departmental houses were seemingly vacant for a period in excess of four weeks, I presented a fairly short list of six or seven. Since that time an article appeared in the paper indicating that there were probably many, many more. I sought information on these additional numbers because it was obviously necessary. I am advised that two of the numbers which were listed in the newspaper were mis-stated, 6979 and 6868, and presumably were referring to the adjoining properties, 6978 and 6969. I will not bother reading all the lot numbers; if any honourable member wants to have the individual lot numbers, I can supply them. Seven of the houses are rented out to the Department of Defence as head tenants. It is a matter for the Department of Defence to allocate the actual premises. The Department of the Northern Territory intends to make a formal approach to the Department of Defence for the latter department to consider the returning of houses which cannot be tenanted within a reasonable time to the pool for reallocation to applicants on the Darwin staff housing list. Two of the other lots mentioned are rented and occupied by tenants of the Department of the Northern Territory and three are on offer to prospective tenants. House 7072 was returned to the pool on 24/1/78, 6918 was returned to the pool on 6/2/78. These three houses have been offered several times since but they were returned to the pool. The remaining house, which was taken over in April 1977 by the department, is an executive-type house held in reserve pending possible demand from the executive pool. This house has now been allocated and will be physically occupied within a few days.

356 Mr ISAACS to Mr TUXWORTH

How many staff members have been appointed to the office of the supervising scientist whose job is to see that the environment is protected in the Alligator Rivers area?

ANSWER

It is my understanding that the legislation which gives effect to the creation of the supervising scientist and his authority has not yet been introduced and passed through the federal house. We have a situation where a supervising scientist elect, Mr Bob Fry, has been appointed to the position pending the introduction of legislation and the confirmation of his position. I also understand that Mr Fry has had seconded to him, from various agencies throughout the Commonwealth, staff to supervise the whole of the uranium production scene. However, I cannot say how many there are.

357 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr ROBERTSON

Again I refer to the Department of Education and I assume his answer will be no. I must ask this question at this time of the morning so that he can take appropriate action. Is he aware that because of the extensions and upgrading of the Nightcliff High School library, that library will be totally inoperable for all of the second term at least? Is he also aware that the department has not made available to the high school any demountable accommodation to assist with rehousing either staff, students or the library, therefore rendering a large part of the school effectively inoperable? Year 11 and 12 students will be seriously disadvantaged and junior school students will not have the use of the library at all.

ANSWER

The honourable member for Nightcliff is perfectly correct; the answer to the question is no. However, if what she says is true, I can fully understand her concern. I will undertake to discuss this one personally with officers of the Department of Education this afternoon after the House rises as I anticipate that this will be somewhat earlier than normal.

358 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

Does the honourable member intend to advise the House on the details of the recent discussions he has had with the federal government on Kakadu National Park?

ANSWER

The short answer is no.

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PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

Questions are printed in numerical order

An index to questions appears at the end of Part II

FROM 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 in travel or otherwise to investigate the proposed purchase?

3. If money has been spent on travel or otherwise, on what authority was the money spent?

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

306 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

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

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?

339 Mr PERKINS to Mr ROBERTSON

Will he advise what amount 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?

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?

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?

372 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

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

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?

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?

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 dependents receive miscellaneous assistance; and

(c) is it intended that a category known as "emergency assistance" be provided, as in Victoria?

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?

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?

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 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?

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?

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

383 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

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

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?

385 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr TUXWORTH

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

1. How many metres of non-core and 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?

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 the Animal Industry and Agriculture 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 Animal Industry and Agriculture 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?

421 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

How many commercial 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 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; and (m) over 1,000,000?

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; and (n) 3,500 and over?

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 Northern Territory civil works when this area of responsibility is transferred to his executive control?

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 Northern Territory Mines Branch granted an exploration licence to Mrs Stevens who would appear to have had 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 Northern Territory?

484 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

I refer to the Aboriginal Development Foundation and ask -

(a) how many members does it have, 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?

92 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

1. Why is the notice in Gazette No. 46, 18 November 1977, appointing the Territory Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council over the signature of the Administrator, and not the executive member as required in the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Ordinance?

2. What are the qualifications of each of the members of the council with respect to section 80(3) of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Ordinance?

3. Who were the unsuccessful candidates to the advisory council and what were their qualifications with respect to section 80(3).

ANSWER

1. Part one of the question was answered verbally in the House in the November-December 1977 sittings of the Assembly.

2. The answer to part two is set out below:

Mr W.T. Hare	Director of Territory Parks and Wildlife.
Mr K. Hyde	Scientific expertise in soil conservation, agriculture and arid zone land management.
Mr R.N.D. Miller	Extensive knowledge of the Territory and of the pastoral industry. Special experience in park management as deputy chairman and member of the Northern Territory Reserves Board during the past eight years.
Mr V.T. O'Brien	Extensive experience in land administration and legislation, plus expertise in park administration as a member of the Northern Territory Reserves Board.
Mr W. Rabuntja	Highly experienced in traditional Aboriginal law and culture and a well respected leader in the Central Australian Aboriginal community.
Miss D. Byrnes	Has detailed knowledge of parks in Central Australia and specialised knowledge of the tourist industry in relation to park management.
Mr G.R. Ryan	Extensive knowledge of the mining industry in the Territory (22 years) and long-term personal interest in conservation issues.
Mr M.K. Stewart	Detailed local knowledge of the Top End and of recreational interests of user groups.
Mr J.G. Yunupingu	Special knowledge of Aboriginal law and culture and chairman of the Northern Land Council.

3. Details of unsuccessful candidates remain confidential to the Administrator in Council.

181 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

When will the third bore at Batchelor be equipped with a dual diesel-electric pump?

ANSWER

It is expected that the third bore at Batchelor will be equipped with a dual diesel-electric pump at the end of June 1978.

219 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

1. How many work-related accidents occurred in the Northern Territory during 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1976-77?

2. How much was paid out in workmen's compensation claims in 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1976-77?

ANSWER

Additional information (see answer 7 March 1978).

You were provided with an interim reply, advising that the information sought would be furnished when the necessary data had been collected.

Enquiries have now been completed and the answer to the question is as follows:

1. 1974-75 - 1,488
   1975-76 - 1,760
   1976-77 - 1,952
   (claims received by insurers)

2. 1974-75 - $1,222,000
   1975-76 - $1,558,000
   1976-77 - $1,723,615

220 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

1. Has approval been given, and if so when, for the erection of five town houses on Lot 1776, Banyan Street, Darwin?

2. Have objections been lodged to the zoning of Lot 1776, Town of Darwin, as R2 in the Darwin Town Plan?

3. If these objections are upheld, will the building be allowed to proceed?

4. Is the sewerage system in the area presently overloaded, and does it occasionally overflow?

5. What steps are being taken to upgrade the sewerage system in the area, in view of the zoning of the area for medium density housing in the Darwin Town Plan?

ANSWER

1. The Darwin Reconstruction Commission approved the erection of five town houses on Lot 1776, Banyan Street, Darwin at its meeting on 21 December 1976. The applicant was notified of the approval by the Urban Development and Town Planning Branch on 6 January 1977. A

building permit was issued on 25 May 1977.

2. No objections have been lodged to the zoning of Lot 1776 Town of Darwin, as R2 in the Darwin Town Plan. A number of objections have been lodged "to the building of town houses" on Lot 1776, Banyan Street. The Town Planning Board may accept these objections to the zoning of the land as R2.

3. Assuming the Town Planning Board accepts the objections as valid, no action can be taken by the Town Planning Board to revoke the building permit. Provided the developer complies with the provisions of the permit, the building can proceed, notwithstanding any proposed zone change in accordance with section 48(2) of the Town Planning Ordinance.

4. The sewerage system is not overloaded by the contributing population at present, nor would the addition of five town houses affect its carrying capacity. The sewerage system has occasionally overflowed due to blockages and ground-water infiltration during sustained wet weather. To date there have been no reported overflows in the 1977-78 wet season.

5. The Banyan Street sewers were repaired in 1977 to eliminate groundwater infiltration. In addition, sewage was diverted into the Central Zone Sewerage System, eliminating a pumping station, the limited capacity of which caused backup of sewage into these sewers. A program of testing house drains is in hand to remove groundwater and surface water from this street and the program will continually be reviewed in the light of the development occurring and the infiltration that cannot be contained. The rate of development would not indicate that there needs to be any augmentation within five years.

221 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

With reference to moneys invested by the Northern Territory Housing Commission in 1977 -

(a) where was the money invested, for what periods of time and at what rate of interest; and

(b) how much was loaned to the Home Finance Trustee, for what period of time and at what interest rate?

ANSWER

(a)

Approved Bank	Principal	Investment period	Term Months	Term Days	Interest rate
	$				
N.S.W.	250,000	24. 1.77 - 10.10.77	8	16	9.9%
A.N.Z.	150,000	21. 2.77 - 9. 9.77		200	9.85%
C.T.B.	50,000	28. 2.77 - 30. 3.77		30	9.0 %
A.N.Z.	100,000	28. 2.77 - 29. 8.77	6	1	9.85%
C.B.A.	500,000	22. 4.77 - 27. 6.77		66	10.0 %
N.B.A.	500,000	18. 5.77 - 27. 6.77		41	10.0 %
C.B.A.	350,000	18. 8.77 - 17. 3.78	6	27	10.0 %
A.N.Z.	100,000	17. 8.77 - 17. 8.78	12		9.55%
A.N.Z.	100,000	29. 8.77 - 29. 5.78	9		9.85%
C.B.A.	150,000	9. 9.77 - 7. 4.78	6	29	10.0 %
C.B.Co.	800,000	19. 9.77 - 19. 9.78	12		10.0 %
N.S.W.	250,000	10.10.77 - 9. 1.78		91	10.0 %

Approved Bank	Principal $	Investment period	Term Months	Term Days	Interest rate
N.S.W.	600,000	26.10.77 - 26. 6.78	8		9.5 %
A.N.Z.	600,000	26.10.77 - 26. 6.78	8		9.5 %
C.B.Co.	300,000	26.10.77 - 26. 6.78	8		9.5 %
C.B.A.	200,000	24.10.77 - 9. 5.78	6	15	10.0 %
C.T.B.	300,000	31.10.77 - 3. 1.78	3		10.0 %
C.T.B.	200,000	21.11.77 - 21. 2.78	3		9.75%
(b) Home Finance Trustee - government guarantee.					
"	300,000	23. 2.77 - 23. 2.78	12		9.5 %
"	500,000	11. 3.77 - 11. 3.78	12		9.5 %
"	2,000,000	26. 4.77 - 26.10.77	6		6.0 %
"	500,000	26.10.77 - 26.10.78	12		9.5 %
Aust. Savings Bonds	100,000	Invested to 1.2.83 (Redemption after one month notice)			10.5 %

222 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

How much, in total, was paid by the Australian government to employers of apprentices in the Northern Territory to cover days lost due to school in the financial year 1976-77?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided in answer:

Expenditure in the Northern Territory in 1976-77 on employee subsidies under the National Apprenticeship Assistance Scheme (NAAS) and the Commonwealth Rebate for Apprentice Full-Time Training Scheme (CRAFT) totalled $141,222.75.

249 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

In the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch in the Top End -

1. How many veterinary officers are available to help small farmers?

2. Briefly what are the complete additional areas of concern of these veterinary officers?

3. How many stock inspectors are available for help for small farmers?

4. How many extension officers are there, whose main work is to help and give field advice in situ to small farmers?

5. In what specific fields do these extension officers operate?

6. What are the future plans of the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch field extension officers to actively encourage the small animal and crop landholders to realise their full potential to build a stable lace of agricultural production for the undoubted benefit of all of us in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided in answer:

1. The branch has four veterinary officers located in Darwin. The duties of two of these are field orientated while those of a third are

confined to laboratory diagnostic work, e.g. post-mortems on commercial type animals.

2. The principal duties of veterinary officers are -

   (a) safeguard public health from transmittable diseases, e.g. meat inspection at abattoirs, testing of dairy herds;

   (b) health testing and issuing of permits for overseas livestock exports;

   (c) disease investigation and control of commercial type animals, e.g. cattle, horses, pigs, goats, poultry and sheep;

   (d) treatment of commercial type animals in remoter areas, and

   (e) extension activities.

3. There are five stock inspectors located at Darwin, four of whom are field staff.

4. The branch has two officers whose main official responsibilities are to provide field extension services to producers in the Top End. In addition the branch has found it necessary to divert the professional position in horticulture to general district (extension) activities. The horticultural technical officer based in Darwin has as one of his major activities the provision of advisory services to horticultural producers throughout the Top End. The above officers are supported by the part-time extension activities of a number of staff specialising in particular aspects of agriculture such as animal production, pastures, crops, weeds, seeds, animal health, plant pathology, entomology, botany, agricultural chemistry and economics and marketing.

5. The fields covered by the two full-time officers are pigs, poultry, dairying and Katherine district agronomy (extension). The latter officer is also responsible for district noxious weed control programs. The horticultural technical officer covers horticultural extension although a significant proportion of his time must be devoted to experimental work on horticulture. This has been made necessary by the diversion of the professional officer (horticulture) position to Darwin district (extension) work. In addition to extension work, the Darwin district officer is also responsible for district noxious weed control programs.

6. The branch aims, through its extension services, to encourage producers to develop their potential by adopting more efficient and economic practices based on its own research, research conducted elsewhere and successful commercial experience. Techniques used by the extension service include - use of the media, branch publications, property visits, property demonstrations, field and open days, answering specific enquiries and arranging investigations of producers problems. The extent to which these aims can be achieved depends upon the continued availability of new and improved information on resources such as staff and finance for development of extension services and on the receptivity and ability of producers to put new techniques into practice. The branch has been concerned for some time with the adequacy of its resources to meet the ever increasing and sometimes changing needs and demands of producers for extension services. In the past the Northern Territory has been excluded from participation in the Commonwealth Extension Services Grants scheme (GESG) whereby state departments of agriculture have received special Commonwealth

fundings since 1948 to improve their extension and regional research services. CESG has had a major impact in the states with $10m being made available in the last financial year. The scheme is currently under review and the department is seeking to have the Northern Territory included, although this would have to be by separate but parallel arrangements between the Northern Territory executive and the Commonwealth, outside the Commonwealth-states scheme. In addition the branch is seeking funds from other sources to enable more investigation and development of tropical fruit and vegetable crops which may be of particular importance to small producer-landholders.

250 Mr PERKINS to Mr PERRON

Further to my question 190 concerning stage 4 of the Alice Springs powerhouse, will he advise whether the generating sets to be installed will be compatible with existing sets and therefore save on tooling up and maintenance costs?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided in answer:

The Department of Construction has advised that the generating sets to be installed during the stage 4 extension to the Alice Springs power station will be fully compatible as regards operational requirements but not necessarily identical to the existing sets.

To ensure competitive tendering it is essential that all reputable engine manufacturers who can tender in the size range specified be given the opportunity to do so. During the analysis of tenders adjustments are made to the base tender price which take into account various factors, including those raised in the question, so that the generating set finally selected for purchase is the one which provides power at the lowest overall cost to the consumer.

251 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

Further to my question on notice No. 154 concerning the condition of the road to Uluru National Park, will he explain what steps will be undertaken to upgrade the road to Uluru National Park, given that the term "re-sheet" usually refers to the sealing of the road and given that this road is not sheeted?

ANSWER

In order that I may answer the question accurately it is necessary for me to define "re-sheeting" and here I use the Australian standard definition for terms used in road engineering.

"Re-sheet" is to condition by adding a new layer of material of appreciable thickness which in simple terms means maintenance action to restore the pre-existing road surface, and this could be sealed or it could be a gravel or other type of surface. The honourable member's question is based on his understanding that re-sheeting usually refers to the sealing of a road.

There is currently a $100,000 project under way to re-sheet 30 km, which I referred to in answer to question No. 154. This does not relate to a sealed road.

252 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

1. (a) What was the nature of the "political and industrial surveillance" which was carried on by Special Branch up to the time of its disbandment?

   (b) How many people and of what rank were in Special Branch at the time of its disbanding?

   (c) Were any files, dossiers, records, memoranda or notes held by Special Branch on private individuals who had not been charged with a criminal offence or were not under investigation for alleged criminal offences? If so, what became of those files, dossiers, records, memoranda or notes at the time of its disbanding?

2. What precise functions of Special Branch were taken over by the Criminal Intelligence Section of the Police Force when Special Branch was disbanded in August 1973? Which duties formerly performed by Special Branch have been added to the work of the Criminal Intelligence Section since August 1973, and at whose instigation?

3. When was the Criminal Intelligence Section of the Police Force created? What duties was it intended to perform? At whose instigation and for what reasons was it created? What duties does it presently perform?

4. Were any members of the Criminal Intelligence Section or any other section of the NT Police Force aware of, present at, or in any way involved in, illegal entries into premises of any organisations, businesses, or individuals at any time in 1976 or 1977?

5. What is the present strength of the Criminal Intelligence Section, and what was its strength in August 1973?

6. Since August 1973, have any and how many men or women formerly working in Special Branch commenced or performed duties in the Criminal Intelligence Section?

7. Does the Criminal Intelligence Section compile any information or material on NT residents who are known or believed to be opposed to the Joint Space Defence Research Establishment but who have committed no criminal offence in respect of that opposition?

8. Does the Police Commissioner or do any officers of the NT Police Force have an arrangement for the supply of political or industrial intelligence to any section of the Australian Security Service? If so, what is the basis?

9. What steps has the Majority Leader taken to assure himself that the Police Force does not compile information of a political or industrial nature on individuals within the NT who have not committed any criminal offence?

10. Have any wiretaps, telephone interceptions or other methods of electronic surveillance or eavesdropping been employed by or records of information so obtained been compiled by or kept by any members of the NT Police Force on any and how many occasions in each of the years since August 1973?

    If so, on each occasion such methods were adopted -

(a) by whom was the surveillance authorised;

(b) was the surveillance made on an individual or organisation who was or whose members were suspected of having committed a criminal offence; and

(c) on how many occasions were criminal charges laid against individuals and what charges were so involved on such occasion?

11. Has any section of the NT Police Force at any time since August 1973 supplied information of a political or industrial character concerning individual residents or group within the Northern Territory to any organisations or bodies funded by, or under the authority of, any foreign governments? If so, which organisations, and which foreign governments?

ANSWER

1. (a) It was concerned with the detection of activities thought to be subversive, and with the surveillance of public bodies for influences thought to be subversive.

(b) One sergeant second class and two constables.

(c) Yes. All documents relating to such matters were destroyed by burning.

2. Vetting and enquiries regarding applicants for appointment to police forces.

Vetting of employees for the Department of Defence.

Vetting of applicants for the Commission of Justice of the Peace.

Enquiries for the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs relating to aliens.

Consular and embassy enquiries in relation to aliens.

Issue of police certificates for visa purposes.

All Interpol enquiries regarding dissident groups.

Liaison duties with law enforcement bodies of other government departments as directed by the Commissioner of Police or his deputy.

Provide adequate security precautions for visiting dignitaries as directed by the Commissioner of Police or his deputy.

Handling of matters pertaining to Indonesian castaways.

No further formerly Special Branch duties have been added since.

3. Approval for the establishment of the Criminal Intelligence Section was given on 19.11.1973 but, except for the functions being carried out as listed above by one constable, the section did not become operational until 13.2.1974. The duties of the section are to gather intelligence on criminal activities and the movement of criminals. The section was established at the direction of the Commissioner of Police in order to gather intelligence relating to criminals. These duties are presently performed by the section.

4. There is no knowledge of any such instances. Activities as such are unlawful and would not be authorised or tolerated.

5. Present strength is one sergeant third class and two constables. The section was not in operation in August 1973; however, one constable continued the duties inherited from Special Branch as previously listed. When the section commenced on 13.2.1974 the strength was one sergeant third class and one constable.

6. One constable continued from Special Branch until 2.6.1976.

7. No.

8. No.

9. I enquired of the Commissioner of Police who told me that files are not kept on matters which are purely of a political nature or which refer purely to trade union activities.

10. So far as the Commissioner is aware there is one instance in relation to which tape recording of conversation between a Police Officer and a person suspected of criminal activities was attempted, for the purpose of gaining intelligence, but this was unsuccessful. The Northern Territory Police Force does not have sophisticated electronic equipment.

    (a) the above was authorised by the Commissioner of Police;

    (b) the one instance relates to an individual suspected of being involved in criminal activities;

    (c) no criminal charge arose out of this instance.

11. No.

300 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Who is on the regular mailing list of the NT executive for press releases?

ANSWER

In addition to those of media representation, there are 26 addresses on the regular mailing list for the Northern Territory executive press releases. Most are heads of NT Public Service and Commonwealth departments and units. The others are the Administrator, the Leader of the Northern Territory Opposition, the Member for Nightcliff, the MHR for the NT and Senator Kilgariff.

A list of these addresses is attached:

Mr M. Elliott
Wildlife Unit
Berrimah N.T. 5788

General Manager
NT Housing Commission
Darwin N.T. 5790

Commissioner of Police
P.O. Box 63
Darwin N.T. 5794

His Honour the Administrator
Block 1
Mitchell Street
Darwin N.T. 5790

Director (Finance)
Dept. of Finance & Local Government
P.O. Box 4396
Darwin N.T. 5794

Director
NT Correctional Services
P.O. Box 3196
Darwin N.T. 5794

Director
NT Emergency Service
P.O. Box 82
Darwin N.T. 5794

Primary Producers Board
P.O. Box 2245
Darwin N.T. 5794

Director (Local Government)
Department of Finance & Local Government
P.O. Box 3369
Darwin N.T. 5794

Mr J. Isaacs
Leader of the Opposition (2 copies)
P.O. Box 3721
Darwin N.T. 5794

General Manager,
NT Port Authority
P.O. Box 390
Darwin N.T. 5794

Director
Department of Transport and Industry
P.O. Box 3121
Darwin N.T. 5794

Chief Fire Officer
Daly Street Fire Station
Darwin N.T. 5790

Director
Museums & Art Galleries Board
P.O. Box 4646
Darwin N.T. 5794

Public Service Commissioner
P.O. Box 4371
Darwin N.T. 5794

Senator B. Kilgariff
P.O. Box 4795
Darwin N.T. 5794

Mr Sam Calder
P.O. Box 394
Darwin N.T. 5794

The Editor
Gove Gazette
c/- Nhulunbuy Corporation
Nhulunbuy N.T. 5797

Tony Green
First Floor
Darwin Reconstruction Commission
Darwin N.T. 5790

Att: Miss Maureen Barnett
Department of Aboriginal Affairs
P.O. Box 17
Woden A.C.T. 2606

Director
N.T. Reserves Board
P.O. Box 1046
Alice Springs N.T. 5750

Director
N.T. Tourist Board
P.O. Box 632
Alice Springs N.T. 5750

Sue Marriott
Department of Aboriginal Affairs,
P.O. Box 5025,
Darwin N.T. 5794

The Director
Department of Transport
Box 2270, G.P.O.
Adelaide S.A. 5001

Airport Director
Department of Transport
P.O. Box 315,
Darwin N.T. 5794

Mrs Dawn Lawrie
M.L.A. Member for Nightcliff
C/- Legislative Assembly,
Darwin N.T. 5790

302 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Why is it that some residents of Wulagi have been waiting for up to 15 months for the installation of private telephones?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided in answer:

The Anula and Wulagi suburbs were areas of major redevelopment after Cyclone Tracy and this necessitated the installation of an extensive underground cable system.

The final stages were completed in late 1977 and with the exception of one application (for which special difficulties in providing service still arise), outstanding applicants were contacted and all but one who accepted terms were connected by 3 March 1978. In the exceptional case the applicant is away from Darwin until May 1978.

304 Mr ISAACS to Mr TUXWORTH

Why is the fully-equipped dental therapy clinic at Wulagi School not in operation?

ANSWER

The dental therapy clinic at Wulagi School is not in operation because there are no dental therapists and assistants to staff it. Dental therapists and assistants will be provided as soon as necessary additional positions have been approved by the federal government.

305 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr TUXWORTH

1. Since 1 January 1978 -

   (a) how many persons have been convicted for possession of cannabis;

   (b) how many persons have been convicted for dealing in cannabis;

   (c) how many persons convicted of offences relating to cannabis have been imprisoned; and

   (d) how many persons convicted of offences relating to other drugs have been imprisoned?

2. How many heroin users are there in prison?

ANSWER

1. (a) 13

   (b) 5

   (c) 2

   (d) None.

2. None.

308 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

On what date did the payment from the Australian government for the transferred functions of 1 January 1978 arrive?

ANSWER

The existing financial arrangements between the Australian government and the NT executive do not provide for a Territory fiscus, and the Territory government therefore has not the authority to operate its own banking account. The development of the Territory fiscus and the independent

banking arrangements are scheduled to operate from 1 July 1978.

For the 1977-78 financial year funds provided by the Australian government are provided through the Commonwealth Public Account and access to the Public Account by the NT executive is by way of warrant authority issued by the Commonwealth government. There is no actual cash transfer.

Section 5 of the Allocation of Funds (Appropriation) Ordinances Nos. 1 and 2 1977-78 provided that the Executive Member for Finance and Planning may issue an order applying funds provided by the Treasurer in aid of the Department or the services in respect of which no or insufficient funds have been allocated. Because of a re-arrangement of the Commonwealth's administrative orders the functions for the provision of funds and control of government appropriations no longer lies with the Treasurer and now lies with the Minister for Finance. As the ordinance now stands the Executive Member for Finance and Planning cannot accept funds from the Minister for Finance.

During this session a bill to amend the Interpretation Ordinance was introduced (Serial 42). Following the passage of this bill and assent by the Administrator, an application will be made to the Administrator to gazette an order substituting Minister for Finance in the Allocation of Funds (Appropriation) Ordinances for Treasurer. This will remove the legal difficulty to the passage of funds to the NT executive. The Australian government has undertaken to provide an additional funding of $1,396,535 to meet the expenditures arising from the transfers of 1 January 1978.

In the meantime, as an interim measure an order was issued in accordance with section 5 of the above-mentioned ordinances transferring funds from within the existing appropriations to provide for the services and functions transferred on 1 January 1978.

A copy of this order has been tabled. It will be necessary to revoke this order at a later stage following the receipt of the necessary warrant authority from the Minister for Finance.

336 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

1. Is it a fact that the Northern Territory Supreme Court in its December 1977 sittings in Alice Springs overruled no less than seven decisions made by one of the Alice Springs magistrates?

2. What was the cost to the Crown Law Department of unsuccessfully defending these decisions?

3. Does the Majority Leader view with concern increasing signs that this magistrate has failed in his duty to properly dispense justice in the Summary Court in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

1. The Northern Territory Supreme Court at the sittings referred to in the question overruled a total of six decisions made by one magistrate.

2. It is not possible to extract any meaningful figure as to the cost of defending these decisions on appeal.

3. The magistrate concerned has rendered long and dutiful service to the Northern Territory. His retirement has just been announced.

337 Mr PERKINS to Mr PERRON

1. Is it a fact that the uranium mining companies that plan to establish mines and milling plants in the uranium province intend to draw on the new Darwin power station for electricity to operate these mines and plants? If so, what amount of electricity will the companies use expressed as a proportion of the total amount of electricity generated?

2. What tariff will apply to the electricity supplied to these companies?

3. What is the attitude of the Northern Territory executive to the supply of this electricity to large mining companies, when Australian fossil fuel reserves are dwindling?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided in answer:

1. At this stage a decision has not yet been made by the uranium mining companies as to whether they would generate their own power, draw from a common power plant in the Jabiru area, or draw on the Darwin power station. In the early stages it seems certain that each company will erect its own power plant for use during the construction stage, and a decision as to whether they will draw from a local generating plant, as opposed to reticulation from Darwin, will depend upon the economics at the time of construction.

2. The tariffs to apply for electricity supplied to the Jabiru area were discussed with the mining companies some years ago after detailed investigation of the feasibility study, but no firm decisions were made. In view of the present uncertainty as to the location of generation, no further discussions have taken place.

3. The NT executive policy is that, wherever feasible, mining companies or any other consumer should be supplied with electricity from a government supply.

338 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

1. Is he aware of the concern of present staff of the Department of Construction in Alice Springs about the problems associated with transferring to the Northern Territory Public Service and with future employment prospects?

2. Will present staff of the Department of Construction be consulted in respect of transfers, whether it be compulsory or otherwise?

3. Is the Northern Territory executive likely to freeze transfers for those who will not have a position in the Commonwealth Public Service after 1 July 1978 and who do not wish to join the Northern Territory Public Service?

ANSWER

1. I am aware of the concern of all staff of the Department of Construction and other areas involved in regard to the problems associated with the transfer to the Northern Territory Public Service as should be evident by my repeated press statements and assurances which I have given regarding the retention of rights of transferred employees. To further assist employees to understand the transfer arrangements, my Public Service Commissioner and senior officers of

the Australian Public Service visited Alice Springs and Tennant Creek during the week commencing 13 March 1978 and held discussions with employees scheduled to be transferred to the Northern Territory Public Service on 1 July 1978.

2. No. Section 84A of the Public Service Act provides for compulsory transfer of staff as functions transfer from the Australian Public Service to the Northern Territory Public Service. The authority for transfer of staff rests with the Minister for the Northern Territory.

3. The Northern Territory executive has no power to "freeze" transfers (whatever those words may mean). As I have indicated, staff of the Australian Public Service will be compulsorily transferred by the minister with the function and section 84A(3) of the Public Service Act provides, where a person has been transferred by the minister under section 84A(1) of the act, that person ceases to be an officer or employee of the Australian Public Service.

359 Mr PERKINS to Mr TUXWORTH

What steps will be taken to upgrade and improve the Alice Springs sewerage ponds before 1 July 1978?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided in answer:

The sewerage ponds in Alice Springs are considered adequate. However, there is a problem in the amount of effluent from the system which flows into Il Parpa swamp.

Investigations have proceeded for some time on alternative means of disposing of the effluent and an inter-departmental committee has agreed in principle to a proposal to dispose of this effluent by irrigation.

Funds have been provided to enable grading and survey of the irrigation area, and this work is expected to be completed by 1 July 1978.

The works required to enable the irrigation proposal to proceed are proposed for 1978-79.

360 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

1. What benefits will accrue to the Northern Territory from Professor Harry Messel's proposed crocodile project at Beatrice Hill Research Station from -

   (a) an economic point of view; and

   (b) a wildlife point of view?

2. If it is proposed that the University of Sydney work with the Territory Wildlife Commission on Professor Harry Messel's proposed crocodile project at Beatrice Hill Research Station, what is the break up of their interests in relation to -

   (a) the number of staff each will employ;

   (b) the amount of money each will put up for capital investment there for equipment, buildings, etc, and

(c) the amount of money each will put up for the running costs of the project?

ANSWER

1. (a) The findings of the crocodile research project are expected to provide the basis for a study of the feasibility of commercial crocodile farming in the Northern Territory.

   (b) It is expected that the project will reveal information concerning the biological characteristics and life-cycle of the salt water crocodile and concerning its optimal habitat. This information may help to prevent the extinction of the species, and may help to establish a significant tourist attraction in the Northern Territory.

2. (a) The crocodile research project is managed jointly by the University of Sydney and the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission. However, the Beatrice Hill Research Station, which has been transferred to the project only recently by the Department of the Northern Territory, is expected to be run entirely by Professor Messel's staff. The number of staff which will be employed at the research station by the University of Sydney is unknown.

   (b) It is expected that no major capital funds will be required for equipment and buildings, because most of the equipment needed is already in use and will only have to be transferred to Beatrice Hill.

   (c) For the 1977-78 financial year the budgeted operating cost of the project exceeded $400,000. The sum of $50,000 was allocated in the Northern Territory budget as the Territory's contribution towards the project. Also the occasional services of a ranger of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission, Northern Region will be provided for field work.

361 Mr PERKINS to Mr PERRON

1. Does the Alice Springs power station operate on diesel fuel? If so, how much diesel fuel does the power station require, expressed in litres, per annum?

2. How is this diesel fuel transported to Alice Springs? How much diesel, petrol or other oil product does it require to transport the diesel fuel to Alice Springs?

3. Can the Alice Springs power station operate on other fuels? If so, what?

4. Can the Alice Springs power station be converted to run on other fuels? If so, what, and in respect of each, what is the estimated costs of conversion?

5. From where does the Alice Springs power station obtain its water supply? How much water is used per annum? Where is this water discharged?

6. What are the projected electricity consumption figures over the next 22 years, expressed as a percentage? What population growth projections are used in calculating the consumption figures?

7. What proportion of electricity consumption is attributable to the following Alice Springs areas:

   (a) Pine Gap installation; (b) industry; (c) domestic; (d) farm area, and (e) other?

8. What are the full details of electricity tariff rates for the above areas, together with all variations, if any, over the past five years?

9. Have projections been made as to future increases and or alterations to the electricity tariff rates? If so, please supply details.

10. What research and planning, if any, have been undertaken to establish alternative fuel sources and alternative methods of electricity supply production in the Northern Territory? Please supply full details, if any.

ANSWER

1. Yes. An amount of 16,619,137 litres was consumed in the 12 months ended 30 June 1977 and it is anticipated that an amount of 18,600,000 litres will be consumed for the period of 12 months to 30 June 1978.

2. The method of transportation to Alice Springs is at the discretion of the contract supplier. The bulk of the supplies are delivered by rail from South Australia. Information concerning the amount of diesel, petrol or other oil product required to transport the diesel fuel to Alice Springs is not available.

3. The Alice Springs power station could, with modification, operate on heavier grades of diesel fuel, residual fuel oil or natural gas.

4. Yes. The estimated costs of conversion would be as follows -

   . heavier grades of diesel fuel - minimal.

   . residual fuel oil - $320,000.

   . natural gas - $500,000.

5. The Alice Springs town reticulated water supply system. An amount of 20,000,000 litres was used for the 12 month period ended 30 June 1977. The bulk of the water discharged is evaporated to the atmosphere from the cooling towers, and the balance from the evaporation pond.

   A small quantity is used for domestic type purposes.

6. Projected electricity consumption figures are not available for the next 22 years. However, the projected electricity consumption figures over the next 10 years, expressed as a percentage, is 11.5% compounding annually. The population growth projection used in calculating the consumption figures is 3.5% compounding annually.

7. (a) Nil (not connected to town supply)

   (b) 57.15%

   (c) 37.60%

   (d) 2.43%

(e) 2.82% (street lighting)

100.00%

8. Electricity rates which apply to all towns where electricity is distributed by the Department of the Northern Territory are as follows -

In force for period 1.7.67 to 30.6.76

Domestic rate (per quarter)

4.0 cents per unit for first 250 units
2.8 cents per unit for next 750 units
2.4 cents per unit for all units in excess of 1,000.

Commercial rate (per quarter)

4.0 cents per unit for first 5,000 units
2.8 cents per unit for next 45,000 units
2.4 cents per unit for all units in excess of 50,000.

In force from 1.7.76 (to 31.3.78)

Domestic rate (per quarter)

5.0 cents per unit for first 200 units
4.4 cents per unit for next 800 units
3.7 cents per unit for all units in excess of 1,000 units.

Commercial rate (per quarter)

6.0 cents per unit for first 5,000 units
4.2 cents per unit for next 30,000 units
3.75 cents per unit for all units in excess of 35,000 units.

In force from 1.4.78

Domestic rate

13.08 cents per unit for first 90 units
4.95 cents per unit for next 450 units
3.61 cents per unit for next 450 units
3.46 cents per unit for all units in excess of 990 units.

Commercial rate

12.04 cents per unit for first 900 units
8.50 cents per unit for next 3,600 units
7.40 cents per unit for next 25,500 units
5.20 cents per unit for next 60,000 units
3.75 cents per unit for all units in excess of 90,000 units.

9. The Department of the Northern Territory keeps the financial aspects of the electricity supply under constant review. Any alteration to the existing tariff structure is a matter for decision by the Administrator in Council.

10. Alternative fuel sources and methods of electricity supply considered for use in the Northern Territory include coal, natural gas, tidal power, hydro power, nuclear power and solar power as well as varying

types of fuel oils. More detail is available from the relevant published minutes of evidence presented to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works. This committee has examined all major power station works carried out in the Northern Territory. Investigations are also proceeding into the establishment of a second power station in Darwin.

363 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Have designs been drawn up for a governor's residence in Darwin? If so, what is the cost; when will work commence, and what will be provided in the residence?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory cabinet has decided that the present site of Government House should be retained and have accordingly commissioned the preparation of preliminary sketches for the development of the site so that it might properly fit the office of Administrator. It is noted that alterations to the existing structure will be kept to a minimum in keeping with its National Trust status. The sketches are expected to be presented towards the end of the month and redevelopment will probably extend over several years.

364 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

For what purpose will the tackle boxes valued at $1,667 and mentioned on page 5 of the Northern Territory Government Gazette No. 10, 10 March 1978 be used?

ANSWER

The tackle boxes will be fitted out as first aid kits for issue to all police motor vehicles and motor cycles as standard equipment.

371 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

Regarding the Katherine abattoir -

1. What is the investment of government money in the abattoir?

2. What percent of the total investment is this?

3. In the last killing season, having regard to the fact that 30,000 were killed at Katherine, how many were killed for shareholders and how many for non-shareholders?

4. What market will be available for non-shareholders this year, if the Katherine abattoir kills on the same basis this year?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided in answer:

1. The government has no equity investment in the Katherine abattoir but the company holds a government loan of $1.4m.

2. As the government has no equity investment the question does not arise.

3. On the best information available, 5169 or the 38,760 killed last season were owned by a shareholder.

4. Assuming no change from last year, non-shareholders' kill will represent 87% of the total.

373 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

1. How many government houses were vacated in the period 13 March 1978 to 7 April 1978?

2. How many of those houses were subsequently re-allocated by staff accommodation?

3. What are the reasons for the non-allocation of the remaining houses?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided in answer:

1. Thirty government houses were vacated in the period 13 March 1978 to 7 April 1978.

2. Fifteen.

3. (a) Three houses were advertised as available to other tenants to purchase. No applications were received and these houses are now on offer to prospective tenants.

   (b) Three houses are currently being advertised as available for other tenants to purchase.

   (c) Two houses have been used as temporary accommodation. These have now been declared as structurally unsound and will be demolished.

   (d) Four houses are scheduled for rehabilitation and upgrading. They will be reallocated when completed.

   (e) Two houses required cleaning. One has been completed and is on offer. The other house was completed on 14 April 1978.

   (f) One house recently vacated is on offer.

376 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Will he provide members of the Legislative Assembly with copies of recent reports of the Rand Corporation of California and the American Congressional Sub-committee on Environment, Energy and Natural Resources on the hazards of the nuclear power industry?

ANSWER

I do not have copies of these reports. I suggest that where a member considers a report or publication to be useful for the information of the Assembly the proper approach is through the library committee of the Assembly, not through the executive.

58 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

With reference to the legal opinion being prepared for the trustees of the Darwin Cyclone Tracy Relief Trust Fund by Mr Ian Barker QC - what were the instructions given to Mr Barker by the trustees, and from what source is Mr Barker to be paid for this opinion and under what authority?

ANSWER

The instructions given to counsel are privileged. The Commonwealth government authorised and provided payment of fees for counsel.

64 Mr VALE to Mr EVERINGHAM

In respect of each of the following organisations -

1. Central Australian Aboriginal Medical Service;
2. Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service;
3. Central Australian Aborigines Congress; and
4. Aboriginal Hostels Ltd, Alice Springs -
   (a) what numbers of persons are employed;
   (b) what are the designations, remuneration received and other employment benefits of employees;
   (c) who is responsible for the hiring and firing of employees;
   (d) are the organisations' financial records and expenditure subject to audit and, if so, what are the details of such requirements; and
   (e) are vehicle records and logbooks kept?

ANSWER

The answer to this question has been provided by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs direct to Mr Vale.

151 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is it a fact that Aboriginals living in humpies in the Northern Territory will be required to pay $2 a fortnight for garbage collection and maintenance of parks and gardens as from January, 1978?

Is it a fact that Aboriginals living in stage 1 houses will be required to pay $5 a fortnight for such services under proposed new scales?

Is it a fact that Aboriginals living in stage 3 houses will be required to pay $35 a fortnight as rent, as compared with $13 a fortnight, as from January next year?

ANSWER

The Department of Aboriginal Affairs has advised that at this stage the answer to all three parts of the question is "no".

224 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr EVERINGHAM

(a) Were the establishments of all branches and sections of Australian Public Service departments that were transferred to the Northern Territory Public Service on 1 January 1978 fully staffed on 1 January 1978?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is "no", how many vacant positions were transferred from the Australian Public Service to the Northern Territory Public Service on 1 January 1978?

ANSWER

The functions that transferred to the Northern Territory Public Service on 1 January 1978 were Law from the Attorney General's Department, Apprenticeship Board from Education and Town Planning from the Department of the Northern Territory. The answers to question No. 224 are:

(a) No.

(b) There were 22 vacant positions at the time of transfer.

301 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Will he give an undertaking to this House that the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission will not alienate any vacant crown lands to become a national park or reserve until any Aboriginal land claims over such lands are heard according to due processes of law?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission placed an advertisement in the NT News on 25 January 1978, calling for representation to be made with respect to proposals to vest areas of land in the commission.

No land will be so vested until representations received have been considered. In particular, no land in respect of which Aboriginal land claims have been made will be vested in the commission until those claims have been resolved.

307 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

1. Will he supply the Assembly with the calculation of Grants Commission officers of Territory revenue needs and expenditure needs, which he referred to in his press release of 22 February 1978?

2. Will he supply the Assembly with the calculations of the joint Treasury-Finance paper on revenue needs and expenditure needs?

ANSWER

1. My press release made no reference to expenditure needs, nor has there been any such calculation. As previously advised by the Executive Member for Finance and Planning, a preliminary assessment of revenue needs only was carried out by officers of the Grants Commission on behalf of a Commonwealth inter-departmental committee. Documents and reports of such committees are not available for release.

2. No. Again the matter relates to documents of a Commonwealth inter-departmental committee and are not available for release.

362 Mr PERKINS to Mr TUXWORTH

1. Is it a fact that nuclear dating tests of the water being pumped from the Mereenie Basin for consumption in Alice Springs indicates that the water is some 2,500 years old?

2. Can it therefore be assumed that the heavy rains over recent years have not and will not replenish the basin?

3. What is the estimated life span of the Mereenie Basin? What population growth projections are used in calculating the life span of the Mereenie Basin? Has the life span of the Mereenie Basin been re-estimated in the past five years? If so, what factors caused the need to re-estimate?

4. What proportion of the whole of the present and future consumption of water from Mereenie Basin is attributable to the following outlets in the Alice Springs area - (a) farm area; (b) Pine Gap JDRF; (c) power station; (d) sewerage ponds; (e) industry; (f) domestic; and (g) other?

5. Apart from the Mereenie Basin, what other areas are available to supply the town of Alice Springs with water? What is the estimated life spans of each of these areas? Has the water from these areas been tested to establish its age? If no, why not?

6. What consumption growth projections are used in the calculation of the life span of the Mereenie Basin?

ANSWER

1. Mereenie is a sandstone aquifer. It is one of many aquifers within the Amadeus Basin.

   It is not true that the water pumped from the Mereenie sandstone is some 2,500 years old. The carbon dating work performed by the Australian Atomic Energy Commission indicated that the water could range in age from modern water to water which has been in the aquifer for in excess of 5,000 years. Such dating is but one of many tools used by groundwater hydrologists. Other indications suggest that the aquifer is being continually recharged and thus contains water of all ages up to possibly 15,000 years.

2. It cannot be assumed that heavy rains over recent years have not and will not replenish the groundwater reservoir. Water level data recorded by the Water Resources Branch shows a significant recharge mound derived from recent rains moving through associated aquifers towards the Mereenie sandstone.

3. The phrase "estimated life span" is without meaning unless qualified. The storage in the aquifer is sufficient to sustain the present draft for some 5,000 years. Changes in water requirements during such a period are impossible to predict. The capacity of the existing bore-field to extract the stored water and water moving into the aquifer is under regular review. Factors necessitating the reviews include changes in water level in the aquifer, changes in bore hold efficiency and changes in water usage resulting from changing patterns of consumer demand and changing population. The population of extrapolation used is updated on each occasion a review is conducted.

4. Figures are not available for future consumption of water from the Mereenie aquifer.

   Present consumption from the aquifer in the area to the west of the airport apportioned to the categories listed is:

Farm area	1%
Pine Gap JDRF	3%
Power station	1%
Sewerage system	30%
Industry	3%
Domestic (other than sewerage - mainly garden watering)	55%
Other (mainly watering of school grounds)	7%

5. Apart from the Mereenie sandstone aquifer other aquifers available within the Amadeus Basin include the Jay Creek limestone, the Pacoota sandstone and the Hermannsburg sandstone as well as aquifers within younger unconsolidated formations.

   Outside the Amadeus Basin aquifers available include the Dulcie sandstone and sediments of the Ti Tree Basin. Opportunities exist for the development of surface waters either for direct use or use conjunctively with groundwaters.

   The age of waters in these other areas varies from modern to exceeding 30,000 years but the question is not relevant to the provision of water for the town of Alice Springs.

6. The magnitude of the water resource stored in the Mereenie aquifer is so huge as to render any consumption growth projection pointless. The ability of the borefield to pump such water as may be required to maintain the water supply to town consumers is reviewed annually.

366 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr STEELE

With regard to apprentices in the Northern Territory -

(a) How many are employed by Commonwealth government departments and authorities, and in what trades?

(b) How many are employed by departments responsible to the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, and in what trades?

(c) How many are employed by local government authorities, and in what trades?

ANSWER

(a) 91 - electrical fitter and mechanic, refrigeration and air conditioning mechanic, boiler maker/welder, fitter and machinist, motor mechanic, carpenter and joiner, diesel mechanic, plumber and drainer, sheet metal worker, instrument fitter, plant mechanic;

(b) 2 - electrical fitter and mechanic, motor mechanic;

(c) 1 - motor mechanic.

367 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr STEELE

How many first year apprentices were employed in 1978 -

(a) by Commonwealth government departments and authorities, and in what trades?

(b) by departments responsible to the Northern Territory Legislative

Assembly, and in what trades?

(c) by local government authorities and in what trades?

ANSWER

(a) 29 - electrical fitter and mechanic, refrigeration and air conditioning mechanic, boiler maker/welder, fitter machinist, motor mechanic, carpenter and joiner, diesel mechanic, plumber and drainer, sheet metal worker;

(b) nil;

(c) 1 - motor mechanic.

368 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr STEELE

1. With regard to female apprentices in the Northern Territory -

   (a) How many are employed by Commonwealth government departments and authorities, and in what trades?

   (b) How many are employed by departments responsible to the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, and in what trades?

   (c) How many are employed by local government authorities, and in what trades?

2. How many female apprentices are employed in the Northern Territory, and in what trades?

ANSWER

1. (a) 2 - fitter and machinist, motor mechanic;

   (b) nil;

   (c) nil.

2. 31 - cook, printer, radio and television mechanic, instrument fitter, fitter and machinist, ladies' hairdressers, spray painter.

370 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

1. In Wells Street, Ludmilla, over the past three years, how many traffic accidents have there been?

2. Can an impact study be made of the very serious and increasing traffic problem in Wells Street?

ANSWER

1. Details of traffic accidents in Wells Street are not available for all of the past three years. The Australian Bureau of Statistics could not supply figures for 1975. Because of poor street lighting and the number of unsafe vehicles in Darwin after the cyclone, figures for 1975 would not give a real indication of any current problem which might exist in Wells Street. In 1976 and 1977, there were two traffic accidents in Wells Street - one in October 1976, in which a car collided with a pole, and one in March 1977, in which a rider fell from his motorcycle. In each case, one person was injured.

In the same two years, there were a total of ten traffic accidents in Bagot Road at its intersection with Wells Street. No deaths were reported but twelve people were injured. Each of these ten accidents was a two-vehicle collision. In January and February 1978, there were no traffic accidents either in Wells Street or at its intersection with Bagot Road. As the Bureau of Statistics does not collect information on traffic accidents which do not involve death or injury, no figures can be given for "minor" accidents in Wells Street.

2. The problems of Wells Street were previously studied by the Darwin Traffic Committee. After considering all available evidence, the committee concluded that it could recommend the closure of Wells Street until an alternative could be found to give access to the area and to relieve pressure on the Bagot Road - Stuart Highway intersection. Current efforts are now being directed to that end.

377 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

What is the estimated expenditure in the Northern Territory Public Service during 1977-78 for each of the following employee benefits - (a) salaries; (b) district allowance; (c) higher duties allowance; (d) recreation leave fares; (e) long service leave; (f) annual leave; (g) travelling allowance on recreation leave; (h) additional isolation leave; (i) annual leave loading; (j) other.

ANSWER

1. The estimated expenditures in 1977-78 are as follows -

(a) salaries and allowances	13,809,150
(b) district allowance	1,187,200
Total salaries and allowances	$14,996,350

Items (c), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j) are included as a component of the estimated expenditure under item (a) - salaries and allowances. They are not separately identified in department financial records.

2. Item (d) - recreation leave fares are included under departmental travelling and subsistence allocations and are estimated to total $500,300 in 1977-78.

378 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

How many government houses in the Northern Territory are currently occupied?

ANSWER

There are 4,786 government dwellings in the Northern Territory currently occupied. This includes both houses and flats.

388 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is it true that another party was interested in purchasing the NADC properties around November-December 1977?

ANSWER

I do not propose to answer any questions relating to the Willeroo project as immediately after question time the Executive Member for Transport and Industry will be seeking leave to make a statement on Willeroo and this should give ample opportunity for any debate on the matter.

389 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it true that Queensland Mines has commenced mining of uranium at the Nabarlek site this dry season? Is it also true that the environmental impact study has been done and that Queensland Mines has reached an agreement with the Northern Land Council?

ANSWER

I thank the honourable member for the advance notice which enabled me to do a bit of homework on this. The answer to the first part of his question is that Queensland Mines is hopeful that it can commence on uranium mining this year but agreement with Aboriginals is firstly required. Government legislation to provide for marketing authority needs to be introduced and the rent resource tax dilemma must also be resolved. But if these matters can be resolved within the next six to eight weeks and the company's environmental impact study is approved, all efforts will be made by the company to undertake some construction work during the latter half of the dry season.

In reply to the second part of the question, the company has completed an environmental impact study and this was gazetted for public comment for eight weeks commencing on 20 December. Submissions have been received from various interested individuals and parties, and the company is now in the process of preparing its final environmental impact study for presentation shortly to the Australian government for approval.

In reply to the third part of the question, Queensland Mines has not yet reached an agreement with the Northern Land Council, as has been reported in the newspapers last week, and further negotiations are expected to be undertaken this week.

390 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

Can he advise whether or not a company known as Williams Aviation has recently been granted a charter licence to operate out of Central Australia?

ANSWER

There has been no charter licence issued to Williams General Aviation. I read from the text of a telex from the Department of Transport to myself: "Concerning Williams General Aviation and RFDS, licence has been issued to Williams General Aviation for a period from 24 April 1978 to 31 March 1979 for use in Northern Territory of two aircraft engaged solely on ambulance functions for RFDS and no other work".

391 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

Can he advise the House what stage consideration of objections on the Town Plan and schedule has reached? When will this be completed and will he table the amended plan and schedule in the Assembly at that time?

ANSWER

The town planning unit is preparing all the information for the Town Planning Board to consider the objections which have been lodged to the Darwin Town Plan and the schedules attached to that plan. The board will be having a special meeting of something like a full week, commencing on the 15th of this month, to consider those objections. After that period notice has to be served by statutory requirements on those persons who have had objections overruled so that they may be given the opportunity to appear before the board in person in support of their objections, if they wish to do so, and this means we are still at least a couple of months away from finalising the Darwin Town Plan. As for the honourable member's request that I table the plan in this Assembly, I would have to consider that matter further. It is not an action that has been taken in the past, I understand. However, when the plan is completed it will be formally gazetted and the necessary steps will be taken to ensure that it is a valid document and is available to the public.

392 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it true that fire sprinklers are only being installed on the first and second floors of the new Casuarina Hospital? If so, what precautions are being taken for safety and fire prevention on the remaining floors? I believe also that the Casuarina Hospital is modelled on similar lines to the Woden Hospital in Canberra. If so, how many floors of the Woden Hospital have fire sprinklers?

ANSWER

I had to go to the Department of Health to get a reply for the honourable member on this matter and the reply I have received from the department is thus: The sprinkler system in Casuarina Hospital is confined to the basement only. Other floors are monitored by thermal detectors and they are equipped with hose, reels and fire doors, as well as additional hand extinguishers in high risk areas. The fire system conforms with modern practice and has been approved by the Commonwealth Fire Officer. The system at Woden is essentially the same, with the exception of certain refinements built into the Casuarina Hospital.

393 Mr ISAACS to Mr ROBERTSON

Has the executive member been approached by the Craft Association of North Australia for allocation of premises in Darwin? Are their current premises to be demolished? Will he assure the Assembly that no action on the removal of the current premises will be undertaken until alternative accommodation is found for the Craft Association?

ANSWER

I am not able to answer the honourable Leader of the Opposition's question in detail. I will certainly seek the information he seeks and advise him during the course of these sittings.

394 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

Can he advise the results of the recently completed trade mission to both Southeast Asia and the Middle East?

ANSWER

All I can give is an interim answer. From all accounts the trade mission was very successful in its investigatory role. I will be tabling a report in the next few days.

395 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

My question concerns the recommendations and report of the Aboriginal Land Commissioner, the honourable Mr Justice Toohey, which has been forwarded to the minister in respect of the Borroloola land claim. Would he undertake to take all necessary steps to see if the report can be tabled in the House?

ANSWER

I will certainly undertake to table a sufficient number of copies of the report in this House as soon as it becomes generally available, but it is certainly unlikely to be made available to me before it is made available to other members of the public.

396 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr ROBERTSON

Can he tell the House what other sites were considered for the siting of the proposed museum and art gallery in Darwin?

ANSWER

I think it is sufficient to say that no proposed siting of any building in the Northern Territory, particularly in Darwin, has ever been given more thorough scrutiny than this particular application by the Museums and Art Galleries Board for a site for a museum. It was a most exhaustive inquiry over a period of about two years. Indeed, the Museums and Art Galleries Board used every resource available to it, as did the executive when it considered the siting. We have had the officers of the Department of Construction involved, the officers of the Town Planning Board involved, the Department of Finance and Planning involved. We have had independent architects involved; we have had consultants from Melbourne involved. Every possible site was closely examined and scrutinised by the Museums and Art Galleries Board before it made a recommendation to the executive and then, after that recommendation was made, the executive again requested a thorough examination of all available alternative sites. Nothing could have been carried out more thoroughly, Mr Speaker, and on the basis of that exhaustive advice that has been available to the executive, the present decision was made. I might add, Mr Speaker, that that decision is also subject to an environmental impact statement being prepared under the Commonwealth legislation and at this stage it is by no means a total fait accompli. We and the community will look forward, I think with considerable interest, to the results of that environmental impact study.

397 Mr HARRIS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is consideration being given to the relocation of the Yarrawonga zoo to an area at Fogg Dam?

ANSWER

Certainly not by myself.

398 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

In view of the announced decision to build a museum on the Bullocky Point site and also to extend the boat ramp near the ski club, can he inform me and inform the clubs that occupy land along that Vestey Beach area whether their applications to change their leases will now be considered - or whether they will continue to be delayed for 12 months, while a survey is done by the town planning people?

ANSWER

I think the best way to answer that question is to say that applications by both existing clubs for changes to their leases, or I imagine the honourable member was referring to requests for additional land to be included in their leases, and indeed new applications which are received from time to time for land in Darwin - and quite often those new applications are for foreshore land - are under continuous review. The situation changes from time to time. At present a foreshore management study is being undertaken, as I indicated to the House previously. Decisions on the future of the Darwin Sailing Club and the Darwin Trailer Boat Club, in particular, will not be made until that report is available and considered.

399 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

Can the executive member advise me when the Northern Territory Housing Commission will finalise its restoration program? Is he also able to tell me the number of dwellings that are yet to be restored?

ANSWER

There are approximately 400 Housing Commission houses in Darwin yet to be upgraded. 209 of these are included in the coming financial year's program; 40 of them are yet to be let in the remainder of this financial year and 150 have yet to be completed, although contracts have been let. The estimated date for completion of the whole upgrading program is expected to be the end of 1979, subject to the availability of funds in the forthcoming financial year.

400 Mr PERKINS to Mr ROBERTSON

Will the member table in this House full details of the legal opinion which he sought from the Northern Territory Department of Law concerning the involvement of Alderman Marinucci in the letting of the building contract to the Sicoma company by the Alice Springs council? If so, when, and if not, why not?

ANSWER

I thought the days of witch-hunts were over. I am giving consideration to that matter quite independently, on the question asked by the honourable member for MacDonnell, as he would be well aware from the press statement I made in Alice Springs last week. After I have given due consideration to that legal opinion, I will then make a decision as to whether or not it is proper to table it here. As I indicated in that press

statement, I personally have absolutely no objection whatsoever to tabling that particular legal opinion. However, the wishes of the Alice Springs Town Council have to be taken into account, because of the obvious fear of showing their hand and the prospect of the honourable member of MacDonnell trying to get some sufficiently foolish stooge to make an application to the court along the lines that he has already indicated he would do in his vindictive campaign for some incredible reason against what I believe is a very honourable man in that town council.

401 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

Can he advise the House as to the current stage of negotiations between the Commonwealth and the Anglican Church of Australia regarding the acquisition of Carpentaria College?

ANSWER

I believe there has been some action on this particular matter of late. However, I will seek the information and advise the honourable member during these sittings, rather than attempt to advise her without sufficient background information.

402 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

When is the laundry at the Casuarina Hospital going to be operational? Also is it true that when this laundry is commissioned, it is going to be used by other sections within the Health Department? If so, by whom?

ANSWER

My understanding is that the Casuarina Hospital laundry is already operational and has been now for some time. It is also my understanding that every section within the Department of Health will be having its laundry done in the central laundry complex. The various parties that would be involved would include general surgeries, health clinics and what have you in the immediate environs of Darwin.

403 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is it his intention to introduce legislation in these sittings for the registration of surnames of children according to the custom of the families, rather than by the surnames of the father only?

ANSWER

It is certainly my intention to introduce this legislation at an early date and I have, in fact, given instructions to the Department of Law for the preparation of the legislation. I cannot say for certain whether the legislation will be ready for this sittings, as I think already we have about 50 bills for introduction on this occasion. However, I would expect, if it is not introduced at this sittings, it will be introduced at the June sittings which is only four or five weeks away.

404 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

My question concerns the large number of left-hand-drive vehicles in Central Australia. Will he undertake to ensure that in future all of these vehicles are affixed with a standard-type warning sign?

ANSWER

Perhaps if the honourable member would approach me privately about this, I will certainly look into it and if we can help him out, we will.

405 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it true that the wildlife section of the Department of the Northern Territory recently spent over $500 on fishing equipment for the Prime Minister's afternoon fishing visit in a sanctuary where us ordinary mortals are not permitted to wet a line? If that is true, could the honourable executive member endeavour to find out what has happened to that fishing equipment since?

ANSWER

I cannot really answer the honourable member's question off the top of my head. I am aware that the Prime Minister was the guest of Mr Yunupingu on this particular occasion and perhaps we should take the matter up with him, but I will clarify with the parks commission as to whether they indeed spent $500 on fishing equipment for the Prime Minister and I will also find out why we mortals cannot get a slice of the action.

406 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

In view of the fact that some $4.5m is being spent on building a health laboratory at the Casuarina Hospital - mainly, I believe, to study tropical diseases - can the honourable executive member advise me if any special facilities are being incorporated for the purpose of studying radiation disorders which may assist our new uranium industry?

ANSWER

I do have a reply from the department on this particular question. The first phase of the laboratory complex at the Casuarina Hospital is valued at $4.1m. This building will contain conventional clinical laboratory and blood bank facilities to service patients in the hospital. The second phase, if and when built, will contain public health laboratories including laboratories that will have radiation protection equipment. If I could just say to honourable members of both sides of the House that, if we could get 24 hours notice of questions, it would enable us to complete the exercise at the time the question is actually asked.

407 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

Now the Hooker Corporation has pulled out of the Brinkin subdivision, what decision has been made by the executive to allow the Darwin Community College to expand into that area?

ANSWER

An application by the Darwin Community College is being looked at at the present time, along with other applications for use of land in the northern suburbs which has been relinquished by the Hooker Corporation back to the Commonwealth. The executive is waiting for a report on these matters in order to make a decision.

408 Mr PERKINS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it a fact that hospitals in the Northern Territory discriminate between

Aboriginals and Europeans and others in their recording procedures for patients and, if so, why?

ANSWER

There is a system within the Northern Territory Health Service where people are shown on their medical history cards as Aboriginal or as Europeans, but I would like to point out for the honourable member's benefit that this is only done as a departmental procedure at the request of the patient and is not something which is normally done by a clerk standing behind a counter who makes a physical assessment. It is purely at the request of the patient.

409 Mr HARRIS to Mr PERRON

Is the public at this stage able to purchase government caravans in lots of less than 25?

ANSWER

It seems not generally understood that the Department of the Northern Territory is in fact selling caravans which are surplus to its requirements in single lots. There seems to be a general feeling in the community that they are only being released in lots of 25. The last time that single lots were sold was on 21 March when 30 vans were auctioned and there is to be a further auction in the near future at which 12 vans will be sold in single lots.

410 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr TUXWORTH

Is he aware that there is now no orthodontist available at the Commonwealth Dental Clinic to treat new patients requiring orthodontic care? I understand that continuing patients are being treated by the orthodontist who was there previously but new patients are not being accepted. What action is being taken to overcome this problem?

ANSWER

I am aware that for 12 months the Department of Health has been advertising and seeking vigorously for orthodontists who would be prepared to fill positions in the Northern Territory. There are three positions available and I believe the salaries are in the $25,000 to $26,000 bracket. However, it is very hard to get any starters and riders for these positions. It would appear that orthodontists can make so much money, living in congenial surroundings on the Gold Coast, that they have no ambition and no pioneering spirit that would bring them to the Northern Territory. The department has advertised in the United Kingdom and Canada and, in fact, had a response from both countries to their advertisements which cost a lot of money and took a lot of time. There are orthodontists available to us from America but public service rules preclude the employment of non-British people in this area and for this reason we are not able to avail ourselves of this opportunity. One of the benefits we hope to have after we assume the responsibility of health is that, as an independent body, we will not be held responsible by the Commonwealth Public Service Commissioner and we will be able to go out and obtain orthodontists on the open market whatever their nationality.

I would like to say, for the honourable member's benefit, that the picture is not an encouraging one. It is simply a matter of supply and demand.

People who have the ability and the qualifications have no interest in coming to the Northern Territory. If any member of the public can suggest any ways of luring them here - and I do not think money is a problem - we are more than happy to consider these.

411 Mr DONDAS to Mr STEELE

Is he able to advise me if there is any proposal to bituminise Casuarina beach access road which continues on from Parer Road to the beach? If so, when is the construction of this section likely to commence?

ANSWER

I am not aware of such a proposal. By the tenor of the question, I would expect that it would be a Darwin City Council matter. I will try to track the answer down for the honourable gentleman later in the day.

412 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr TUXWORTH

I would like to ask a supplementary question regarding orthodontists. I know in the past - and it probably still happens - that when there has been a shortage of various medical and dental specialists in the Northern Territory, the Health Department has made arrangements with various other government services in the south to bring visiting specialists up for a short time. Is it possible to do this with orthodontists?

ANSWER

It is possible to do what the honourable member has suggested but there is some difficulty in it. I can indicate that we are currently bringing a doctor from Adelaide to complete all the orthodontic work that has been started by the former departmental orthodontist. He is under contract with the department and the amount of money that it will cost us this year, just for him to finish off, is in the vicinity of $35,000 for a part-time role in coming up every couple of months to spend a couple of days. The difficulty is that orthodontists established down south have so much work on their plate that they have no desire, ambition or encouragement to come to the Northern Territory on any basis at all.

413 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr STEELE

Can he tell the House of the recent discussions on blue tongue and is any new light on the horizon? Is the incident of blue tongue in the Territory as bad as it has been painted?

ANSWER

It is time that I again reported to the Assembly on the blue tongue situation. It is a serious disease and the chance of infection in sheep flocks in the south is very strong. From the Territory's point of view, the executive has endorsed a proposal to construct a laboratory for $160,000, a virology laboratory out at Berrimah, with something like $80,000 worth of equipment and, of course, staff for that proposal would also cost a fair bit of money. But as I said, I think it is probably about time that I again prepared a statement for the House and I will do that within the next few days.

414 Mr DONDAS to Mr STEELE

What are the latest developments concerning the proposal to construct an

overpass on Trower Road at Rapid Creek? Is it true that plans for this have been deferred?

ANSWER

It is not true that plans for an overpass on Trower Road at Rapid Creek have been deferred. It is a very important part of our forward program and it is one that we would like to see at the top of the priority list. I cannot give an assurance as to exactly when that overpass is likely to be commenced but certainly it is very high on our list of priorities.

415 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is it true that Mr Allan Ashley has been appointed as the head of the new Department of Treasury?

ANSWER

It is true that negotiations are in train which I hope will result in the appointment of Mr Ashley as Under-Treasurer to the Northern Territory. However, I think it is premature to say at this stage that his appointment has gone through because it has to be done by the Executive Council.

416 Mr DONDAS to Mr STEELE

Is he able to advise me if any provisions have been made in forward estimates to provide more bus shelters in the Darwin area?

ANSWER

The exact details are not in front of me today but certainly provision has been made and I hope I will be able to report back to him at a later time.

417 Mr OLIVER to Mr STEELE

In view of the large number of cattle now going through the trucking yards of the Alice Springs abattoir and the subsequent increase in dust nuisance, can consideration be given to concreting those yards?

ANSWER

I would be delighted to take the honourable member's suggestion on board. We have to look at a wide range of things in the context of large numbers of cattle flowing through the Alice Springs abattoir this year - that is, in consideration of road proposals and the facilities that he mentions. Certainly, we will have a look at that as soon as we can.

418 Mr DONDAS to Mr STEELE

Can the executive member advise if the stormwater drain system on the Darwin Community College grounds has been investigated with a view to taking action to protect children playing in the area? Would a mesh gate perhaps prevent children entering the underground pipe system which I believe they can navigate themselves up as far as the Casuarina Police Station?

ANSWER

I suppose such navigational prowess is easy to understand; they just

follow a pipe upstream. This issue is being viewed with considerable concern by all the authorities involved and discussions between the college, city council and the Department of Construction are currently taking place. A number of possible solutions are being examined including the erection of a mesh gate to prevent access.

419 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr STEELE

Is he aware that, on that section of Trower Road presently under construction between Francis Street and Ryland Road, there is still a pedestrian crossing which of course is only half available and that children are using this as a pedestrian crossing with grave risk to life and limb? Four children just missed being killed last week. In view of where it is, has he received a recommendation for its temporary closure or the stationing of police officers, who are in short supply of course, at that particularly dangerous crossing?

ANSWER

The question of pedestrian crossings and children's crossings is under examination at the present time by the Department of Transport and Industry and the city council. I am sure the departmental people who are looking into this are aware of the problems of the Trower Road pedestrian crossing. It is quite obvious to me that if it cannot be fixed tomorrow, well, it will probably be fixed the next day. During that period obviously there would be some hazards attached to the fact that the pedestrian crossing is still there. We hope to come up with a solution for all crossings and this involves, as I have mentioned in this House before, access by buses into schools and things of that kind. Certainly, when we can get onto it, we will.

420 Mr DONDAS to Mr ROBERTSON

Is he aware that the number of complaints about dogs has steadily increased these past few months? If so, when does he propose to introduce amendments to the Control of Dogs Ordinance to help solve this dreadful situation?

ANSWER

I am not only aware that the number of complaints has increased; as a matter of fact, I think I am getting them all. If for no other reason than for a little bit of peace, I will be doing everything I possibly can to try once again in this place to introduce legislation which may do something towards alleviating this problem. I know, Mr Speaker, as you would know, that sponsors of bills have been attempting this probably as long as this building has been here and generally with about zero success. In fact, seeing all the complaints I am getting are increasing, as the honourable member points out, then I suppose it is a negative result. So once again I will try to make an attempt, in consultation with groups who are involved in canine clubs and organisations, to come up with legislation which will not inhibit the genuine enjoyment of pets of this type but certainly very strongly discourage people from letting their animals run riot around our suburbs.

423 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

This question is in identical terms to the one I asked yesterday. Is he aware that another party was interested in purchasing the NADC properties around November-December 1977?

ANSWER

My answer to the honourable Leader of the Opposition is the same as I gave yesterday.

424 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Did the Majority Leader or any other person authorised by him request the receiver of NADC to cease negotiations with another potential purchaser of the NADC properties during the trial crop period?

ANSWER

Perhaps it would be easier to put an end to this train of speculation by the Leader of the Opposition. I was not aware that any other party was interested in purchasing Willeroo and that has been made plain right throughout. I would be very interested to hear who this other party is, that is alleged to have been interested in purchasing Willeroo. No-one on my authority - because I did not know that there was anybody interested in purchasing Willeroo - asked the receiver to put paid to any negotiations with another party.

425 Mr DONDAS to Mr ROBERTSON

In view of the fact that the Marrara sporting complex has been a proposal for several years, is the executive member in a position to advise me when a decision will be made to offer this land on McMillans Road to interested sporting bodies? Is the executive member also able to indicate the number of groups interested in obtaining this land for sporting development?

ANSWER

The question raises two prospects. The first one is that, in order for the Marrara area to become available to sporting bodies, a suitable form of tenure would have to be made available to them. I am submitting to the executive a proposal varying the provisions of the Local Government Ordinance in their effect on the Crown Lands Ordinance for a period during which councils throughout the Territory may offer leases to sporting bodies. The great difficulty in the past has been the very limited term of tenure, so the executive will be examining this. I have also approved of my department recommending to the Department of the Northern Territory that the entire Marrara area be handed over to the city corporation with the proviso that it be made available to those sporting bodies that require it. When the two of those things join together, it will be a matter for the city corporation to make the allocation of leases to sporting bodies. I could not give him an exact figure on the number of applications. Certainly, there is considerable interest by a number of sporting groups in obtaining secure tenure for development of those lands. The security of tenure is clearly necessary in order that they may raise funds in order to develop their facilities.

426 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

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

ANSWER

I have not looked at the records to know the extent of his actions in the areas the honourable member refers to. I will have a look at the papers available to me and report back to him.

427 Mr HARRIS to Mr PERRON

Has anything definite been decided yet on the future use of the railway land within the Darwin area?

ANSWER

Australian Railways have called for tenders seeking interested persons to approach them and ask for leases of various railway land within the Darwin area. I understand there have been a number of applications that were successful and the railways are in the process of drawing up leases with these people. There are parts of the railway land in Darwin already being used and I believe in these cases the existing uses will be formalised in the form of a lease. The main railway corridor through Darwin still remains vacant and Australian Railways are prepared to look at any proposals to relinquish this land where necessary for the purpose of roads and other uses by the government.

428 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?

ANSWER

The honourable member asks for the extent; this means the fine detail, which also means the dates, the times and so on. I am not in possession of that detailed information. If there are some special days about which he wishes to make specific allegations, we will answer his question when he defines it effectively for us.

429 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr EVERINGHAM

In consideration of your recent remarks regarding coastal surveillance groups and realising that some form of regular training is advantageous to the personnel, has consideration been given to reintroducing a program whereby young Aboriginal men do short periods of training with the armed services?

ANSWER

No consideration has been given by me or my executive to reintroduce a program whereby young Aboriginal men may do service with the armed forces. I understand that in fact at the present time there are young Aboriginal men of Crocker Island who have made application to join the Australian army and they are presently going through their intake process. The Northern Territory executive, however, has given consideration or, at least, I myself have given consideration to proposals that Aboriginals should be

brought into the coastal surveillance network. We have a firm proposal in this regard which we have submitted to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs with a view to obtaining funds for the proposal. I understand that this proposal is one that meets with the approval of the honourable member for Arnhem.

430 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

During the last session of the Assembly held in March, reports from the Darwin Cyclone Tracy Relief Trust Fund were presented to federal parliament but not to this House, as is required under the trust. Could the honourable Majority Leader advise the House why we did not receive the same courtesy and when he expects to be able to present those reports?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will have this matter looked into today. If there are any outstanding reports, I will arrange for them to be presented during the course of this sittings.

431 Mr DONDAS to Mr ROBERTSON

Can the executive member advise me if any decision has been made to allow Manton Dam to be used as a recreational area for marine craft? I understand the Department of Health has no objection to this proposal.

ANSWER

This is an area that my colleague, the Executive Member for Finance and Planning, is investigating in terms of planning. It is a matter that has been raised previously, in the last Assembly, and is under investigation. I was unaware that the Department of Health had withdrawn any opposition to it. That is in another portfolio of my colleague, the Executive Member for Resources and Health. We are investigating this but as the honourable member has raised the subject again, I will take it on board to see if a decision can be speeded up.

432 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

I do not think this one needs any detailed research. 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 Scott Creek-Willeroo properties?

ANSWER

I do not know. I do not know whether he had a letter to that effect or not. I have not seen a letter of that nature and I would be surprised if there was anything untoward about any communication between the receiver and Mr Jettner. The member heard the statement yesterday; he knows the details made available in the House.

433 Mr HARRIS to Mr PERRON

Are freehold land subdivisions being processed through to the issue of titles at the present time?

ANSWER

Yes. There are approximately eight applications for subdivisions being

processed at present. In order to speed up the processing of freehold subdivisions, I am drawing up policy guidelines for subdividers. They are badly needed as there have never been any guidelines for applicants for subdivision, other than that provided by the ordinance. I hope to finalise these guidelines by Friday of this week. I have an ad hock committee that I am consulting with on the subject and we will be putting these guidelines to the Town Planning Board for its consideration, and hopefully adoption, whereby they can be released. Those persons applying for subdivision will then have a very clear guide as to what will be approved and what will not.

434 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr STEELE

Can he inform the House how much money the Primary Producers Board advanced to the receiver of Scott Creek-Willeroo to pay outstanding debts?

ANSWER

I understand a loan has been approved for an amount of $150,000.

435 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr TUXWORTH

Following on from the answer given to me by the honourable executive member, when I asked about the Woodcutters lead-zinc ore body on 6 December, have the government officers and branches he mentioned managed to draw up the plan that will allow exploration for further ore and thus allow this valuable ore body to be brought into economic production?

ANSWER

I have been advised by the Mines Branch that, since the honourable member's question early in December, inter-departmental discussions have been going on between the various branches in the department to try and establish the exploration program and the management of the program that should be undertaken in the area. I believe that unexpected problems have arisen on the question of the legality of the activities which the company wishes to carry out in this particular area. Until this matter is resolved, little further progress can be made.

436 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr STEELE

Has an assessment of the Scott Creek-Willeroo project been carried out by an independent firm of pastoral consultants? If so, by whom? Will the executive member table the report?

ANSWER

An independent assessment has been carried out by the company, AACM. No, we are not prepared to table the report. It is a private report and its access is limited to the executive. In addition to that report there is a further assessment being carried out by the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch.

437 Mr DONDAS to Mr ROBERTSON

After 1 July 1978 what functions are to be handed over to local government? I specifically refer to the Corporation of the City of Darwin. However, I am sure that other local government bodies in the Northern Territory would appreciate some specific information as to what their responsibilities might be after that date.

ANSWER

It has long been the policy of the CLP to investigate the devolution of powers to local government organisations and this, or course, must be done in the closest consultation with local government. The process of this consultation has been going on for some time now. I have some proposals to put to the executive, probably within the next week. When the executive examines those proposals it will then go back to the local governments concerned and, in accordance with the recent amendment to the Local Government Ordinance, we will then be able to transfer those functions which are agreed to between the parties as being proper for transfer and at a time when local government is able to take them over. If we are going to use the term "government", in the terminology local government, then I think we should see local councils as being the form of government for the towns under the general auspices and along the general guidelines of policy of the state-type parliament and government of the day.

438 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

What approaches, if any, have been made to overseas sources for the funding of the purchase of the NADC properties?

ANSWER

As far as I am aware, no approaches have been made to overseas sources for the funding of the purchase of the Willeroo property other than perhaps by the receiver himself and, of course, I cannot answer for him, although it appears here this morning that we are being asked to answer for what the receiver has done in many cases. Enquiries were made by my department at my request as to what the going interest rates were on funds available overseas but that was simply to get a yardstick on what sort of interest we should be asking for.

439 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr STEELE

Can he tell us who approved the loan of $150,000 advanced by the Primary Producers Board to the receiver of the NADC properties?

ANSWER

I understand that it is the function of the Primary Producers Board to approve its own loans, although there is a limit on the amount that it can actually remit under signature and amounts of over $20,000 have to be referred to the executive member for his signature.

440 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

My question is directed to the Executive Member for Transport and Industry, although I must admit everybody on his side seems to refer to him as the Cabinet Member for Industrial Development. The House has not been shown the courtesy as yet of being told the new titles for the honourable cabinet members.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I resent that remark honourable member. I am not on his side; I am impartial.

Mr ISAACS: I said honourable members but I did not intend any disrespect to yourself, Sir. I am sorry. I was not referring to statements made by yourself, Mr Speaker.

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 and as a supplementary question to that just asked by the member for Sanderson, at what interest rate was the cash advance made to the receiver?

ANSWER

There is some proposal for amending legislation to the Encouragement of Primary Production Ordinance but I doubt if we are proceeding with that proposal at this present time. On the other question about the interest rate - I have not seen the paper work so I do not know exactly what the interest rate is. It is not always definite that an interest rate is a certain figure and the interest rates on some loans I have signed have varied because of special circumstances.

441 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

Are there any long-term plans for tourism or defence developments in the Cox Peninsula area?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any particular long-term plans for the future use of Cox Peninsula. I do not have any information on what the Australian defence authorities may propose for its future use and we certainly have not been approached by anyone from the tourist industry proposing any particular use of the area. I have heard that the area could be subject eventually to an Aboriginal land claim which could, in fact, affect any applications for use of land on Cox Peninsula. However, there are already some freehold lots on Cox Peninsula, as well as a sizeable lease to the Radio Australia facility over there.

442 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Did the Northern Territory executive approach the receiver of NADC in the first instance to purchase the properties through Elders?

ANSWER

I have never heard of Elders - I presume the company that the honourable member for MacDonnell is referring to is Goldsborough Mort - being involved in this transaction at all. It is a complete surprise to me.

443 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

I direct my question to the Treasurer.

Mr SPEAKER: The correct title is the Cabinet Member for Treasury. I will have these names given to the members today and I hope you will get used to them.

Mr DONDAS: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Are there any current proposals for a new subdivision at Lee Point-Casuarina? If so, is the subdivision to be a government or a private subdivision?

ANSWER

There is no particular subdivision planned in the area north of the exist-

ing suburb of Tiwi. The next subdivision to be drawn up or completed - not completed, Malak has to be completed first - but the next subdivision after that would be one north of Wulagi which subdivision is proposed to be called Leanyer. At this stage I could not give a firm undertaking whether that subdivision will be put to private developers or whether it will be developed in the way most development in Darwin has proceeded in the past and that is by the Department of Construction doing most of the necessary works and letting contracts to the private sector for the actual development.

444 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?

ANSWER

I am unable to answer that question. If the honourable gentleman would put all his questions in the one package, I might do a bit better than getting up each time.

445 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TUXWORTH

Could he advise if any officers of his department have been able to undertake a survey into the operations of sand miners and other extractive industry people operating in the Howard Springs area, bearing in mind the remarks he made when he put through the legislation restricting unlawful activities in this respect?

ANSWER

It would be pretty difficult for me to send any officers of my department to do this job because I only have four, and this function is currently the responsibility of the Department of the Northern Territory. However, I am aware that the environmental geology section and the soils conservation section of the Mines Branch have been maintaining a limited surveillance over sand mining in the area. There are some sand mining or excavation licences that were issued by the Waters Resources Branch and Lands Branch which are current until 30 June and these will be able to function up until that time. Some areas where the licences to extract have lapsed are currently being covered by topsoil, so that growth can be generated in the area and the damage to the surface where the extraction has taken place can be reduced to a minimum. The surveillance will be limited probably until after July and, even at that stage we will be relying pretty heavily on public information to catch the illegal sand miners. As the honourable member would be aware, there are 32 square miles and more out there that are being mined illegally by people who have no responsibility towards the community and are only looking after themselves. It is not possible for a band of ten, twelve or even twenty men to catch them unless the public is prepared to cooperate in the exercise with us.

446 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

What is the value of the crop planted at Scott Creek-Willeroo over the December-January period?

ANSWER

I can answer that question in several ways, I should imagine. However,

Mr Speaker, I think these sorts of questions should probably go on notice; the fine details of these particular transactions escape me.

447 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

Will the member advise this Assembly of the criteria used in the selection of prison officers? Will he further advise us of the content and duration of training schemes for prison officers and will he tell us how many Territory prison officers have had the advantage of those schemes?

ANSWER

Normally, that is definitely the type of question I would request to be put on notice. However, seeing the honourable member has raised the question in the House, I will endeavour to have the information provided to her as soon as possible.

448 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

I asked him a question on 7 March 1978 on notice relating to a lease agreement being signed between V.B. Perkins and Company and the Northern Territory Port Authority and I have had no reply to that question. I ask it again: has the Northern Territory Port Authority signed a lease agreement with V.B. Perkins and Company? If so, when? And if not, why not?

ANSWER

The question can be answered by me. The lease agreement has not been signed. As to why - there are some legal complications with some of the clauses and those clauses are currently being negotiated by the Solicitor-General, on behalf of the Port Authority, with the Perkins company.

449 Mr VALE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can he advise what the true feeling of the Hooker Creek residents is towards Constable Jennings?

ANSWER

I understand from the honourable member for Stuart that this question is asked by him on your behalf, Mr Speaker. It is a difficult question for me to answer because the honourable member for Victoria River and myself and the Hooker Creek community reached an agreement at our meeting at Hooker Creek that we would not do anything to prolong the fuss and bother that was raised over certain incidents at Hooker Creek. All I can do is refer honourable members to the fact that the Police Commissioner apparently did not proceed with the transfer of the two police officers at Hooker Creek and I think the facts speak for themselves.

450 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Will he advise the Assembly when the Ombudsman Ordinance will be put into effect and when the Northern Territory ombudsman will be appointed?

ANSWER

It is certainly hoped that the Ombudsman Ordinance will be brought into effect on 1 July. This is subject to negotiations presently going on with the Commonwealth ombudsman, through the Prime Minister's Department. It

is the wish of the Commonwealth that our ordinance come into operation at that time. I hope there will be no delay and obviously an ombudsman will have to be appointed as soon as possible thereafter.

451 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr ROBERTSON

Can he tell us who is responsible for undertaking the architectural design work for the proposed museum and art gallery which is to be constructed at Bullocky Point? Can he also say whether any private architectural firms were involved in the architectural design work and, if so, can he give us the names of these private architectural firms?

ANSWER

In answering the question, I am more than prepared to discuss the entire museum and art gallery proposal with any member of the Opposition in my office, including looking at the plans and going right through the whole thing. The honourable member for Fannie Bay has already taken that opportunity and I would suggest that the honourable member for Sanderson do the same thing. It is necessary to bear in mind that the design work on the new museum and art gallery proposal has been going on for quite a long time. Everyone, right down to the Darwin Reconstruction Commission, has been involved in the conceptual stages of that plan. If the honourable member wishes to be fully informed as to what the current position is in relation to the museum proposals, she is more than welcome to come and see me.

452 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

Has an agreement yet been reached with Australian Railways on the purchase of the railway houses at Parap? If not, can he tell us when he anticipates that this matter will be completed?

ANSWER

There has been no finality in negotiations with the railways on purchasing their properties, not only at Parap but throughout the Northern Territory, which the railways are seeking for the Northern Territory government to take off their hands. There will be amendments introduced in this Assembly during these sittings that will allow the Housing Commission to manage the houses until such time as the arrangements for purchase or transfer can be finalised. At the rate we are reaching agreement on a number of matters with the Commonwealth, which have a bearing on the negotiations with the railways and the price of the houses to be transferred, I would hope that we may even be able to complete much of the arrangements for purchase by 1 July 1978.

453 Mr ISAACS to Mr ROBERTSON

Is he aware that Northern Territory pensioners are not entitled to any concessions on rail travel interstate? If he is aware of this - I can assure him that it is true - what does he intend to do to ensure that Northern Territory pensioners are given the same rail travel concessions as pensioners in the rest of Australia?

ANSWER

I accept the word of the honourable Leader of the Opposition that that is indeed the case. What we would need to determine is whether there is a reciprocal agreement between the states and their own rail systems. If

some reciprocal agreement has been arrived at between the states, then most certainly in my capacity of Community Development, I will have my officers look into the matter as a question of priority, and see whether the Transport Ministers' Conference, or whatever is appropriate, can have Northern Territory pensioners included in that scheme. I thank the honourable member for the suggestion.

454 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr TUXWORTH

Can he tell us what amount the Betting Control Board originally proposed to allocate to the Pine Creek Race Club during the current financial year? Was that amount subsequently altered and, if so, why was it so altered?

ANSWER

I will have to ask that that question be put on notice.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

405 Mr TUXWORTH (Resources and Health) (by leave): The House may recall that yesterday in answer to a question from the honourable member for Arnhem on the Prime Minister's recent fishing trip, I undertook to seek further information on the matter. I am informed that the fishing equipment used on the expedition was purchased by the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission for the purpose of providing equipment for this and other expeditions of its kind. I am advised that the total outlay was $307 and was charged against the commission's maintenance vote for northern management. It is expected that the equipment will be divided between Nourlangie and Cobourg Peninsula and be used for future excursions of this nature.

The honourable member ended his question with a reference to the fact that mere mortals were not permitted to fish in the particular place the Prime Minister was taken to. In response to this, I would point out that the trip was at the invitation of the chairman of the Northern Land Council, Mr Yunupingu. A senior official of the Chief Secretary's Department warned Mr Yunupingu of the consequences that might flow from his invitation to the Prime Minister to fish at Dreaming Waters and was told that Mr Yunupingu was aware of the consequences and accepted the responsibility.

455 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

What steps have been taken to resolve the taxi dispute, having regard to the hardship being experienced now by taxi owner-drivers due to the need for renewal of registrations and the prospect that they will be forced into the position of being out of work whilst having the means of employment quite prominently in their carports or garages?

ANSWER

I apologise that the taxi industry matter has been long drawn out and is still not quite resolved. I have a telegram from the association which I received into my hand as I walked into the House. I will read this telegram out because it does highlight part of the problem.

We have sent a telegram to the Minister for the Northern Territory requesting his urgent attention re taxi dispute. The text is as follows: "Sir, your urgent attention required re taxi dispute and getting no satisfaction from Cabinet Member for Transport, Roger Steele, or Majority Party, dispute has dragged on for four months. Urgent legislation required immediately. People will be forced out of work, also forced to work outside of the law to survive; have been given the run around and members are getting very disgruntled. Further information, phone Darwin 81 3243, T. Johnson, for and on behalf of Associated Cabs and Hire Cars.

Well, sending a telegram to the Minister for the Northern Territory would be like wiring for Father Christmas to come back in May of this year.

However, I did apologise for the delay and submissions are being considered from all parts of the Northern Territory, not just one little segment in Darwin. Drafting instructions will be issued very soon.

Before considering the issue of new licences which is part of the plea that is being made to us - and there is a question on notice from the honourable Leader of the Opposition in regard to the formula - I am of a mind to investigate further the last year's income of owner-drivers, before determining a ratio of cabs to population. I would hate to send broke the long-term members of the industry.

Speculation has been made that there will not be enough taxis during the current dry season and I propose that, subject to applications to the registrar, the short-term requirements of the tourist operators may be catered for by the issue of permits.

456 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr EVERINGHAM

Has he had the opportunity to read the transcripts of the proceedings of the public hearing held in Darwin last week of the federal parliamentary expenditure committee, inquiring into forestry operations in the Department of the Northern Territory? Does he plan to attend the next public hearing of the committee which I understand will be held in Canberra shortly, and does he anticipate, as a result of this inquiry, making substantial changes in the operation of the Forestry Branch after it is transferred to his control?

ANSWER

I welcome this question from the honourable member for Fannie Bay. Unfor-

tunately, I have not as yet had the opportunity to read the full transcript of the parliamentary committee's hearings in Darwin last week. I have, however, had a brief oral report on the hearings and some of the things that came out at the hearing certainly did disturb me, although I have been rather concerned in relation to the Forestry Branch for some time. I cannot say with any degree of certainty at this stage what steps will be taken when forestry comes under the control of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly. For a start, however, I have amalgamated the forestry function for administrative purposes with the Soil Conservation Branch and the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission, in what I believe is virtually a conservation portfolio. I am working on administrative directions which I propose to give to the director of Parks and Wildlife and the director of the Forestry Branch in relation to the way that I see the combined setup operating. I have not concluded the preparation of these administrative arrangements but I certainly hope to do so before the end of this month.

457 Mr HARRIS to Mr ROBERTSON

Is he aware that Mr Ted D'Ambrosio, a candidate in the election for alderman in Lyons ward at last Saturday's election, has formally requested that the poll for that ward be declared invalid? Could he advise this Assembly and the public what gave rise to that request and what is the present position?

ANSWER

I can answer the first part of the question but to answer the second part - what gave rise to the request by Mr D'Ambrosio for the poll in the Lyons ward to be declared invalid - I suppose would require something of a legal opinion, which is contrary to Standing Orders. I believe that this matter is of such interest to the public and to this House that perhaps, with indulgence, I might go into the situation as it is seen at the moment.

Mr SPEAKER: As long as you do not contravene Standing Orders.

Mr ROBERTSON: I have no doubt, Mr Speaker, that I would be pulled up instantly.

The original difficulty came, of course, on the wish of Mr Sydney Brooks to withdraw from consideration as an alderman for the ward of Lyons. He advised the town clerk, as returning officer, on 10 April that it was his intention due to health and personal reasons to discontinue his contesting that seat. The town clerk, acting as returning officer, quite properly advised Mr Brooks there was no provision within the Local Government Ordinance for a prospective alderman to withdraw from an election. So the fact of the matter is that Mr Brooks, at law, remained a candidate right throughout. He was never at any stage, within the meaning of the ordinance, not a candidate. Therefore any move by Mr D'Ambrosio - and I can understand his disappointment after so many years serving the city corporation - was without foundation in law. He simply could not request the annulment of that election on the basis of another candidate's withdrawal because the withdrawal never occurred.

The election for the city corporation, of course, has given us a few lessons. We have learnt quite a lot from it. There are a number of other areas that we will have to look at as a result of that election. Naturally, we are going to have to find a method through amendment to the legislation to allow for the withdrawal of a candidate for alderman, because this

sort of thing most certainly will happen again in the future where, during the period between nomination and polling day, a man falls ill and with the best intention in the world cannot continue. There are other matters which must be looked at. Another one which readily comes to mind, if I might just finish off on this note, is that there is no provision in the present legislation to cover the eventuality, now that we have introduced the ward system, of insufficient candidates actually nominating. So that and a number of other lessons were learnt from this election last Saturday.

458 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

This question follows on from that asked by the honourable member for Tiwi. Can the honourable member give an assurance to this Assembly that priority will be given to drafting legislation to cover the taxi industry? Can he give an assurance that it will be given much more priority than indicated in the letter written to the secretary of the Darwin Taxi Drivers Association on 7 April 1978 where his acting director said: "Obtaining a drafting priority before July this year will be impossible. At the earliest, I would not expect to introduce legislation until much later in the year"?

ANSWER

I am unable to give the assurance that the honourable gentleman requires.

459 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

I refer the member to my question in February this year about arterial roads when he said that a study was being made and he expected papers to come forward to the executive in the near future. Can he advise us whether that study has been completed and has the question of arterial roads been considered by the executive?

ANSWER

No, the matter has not been referred to our executive at this date. Obviously, it will have to be done fairly soon because the financial year is closing now and we are making preparations for the coming financial year, whereupon decisions will have to be made as to expenditure on additional arterial roads around Darwin.

460 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr STEELE

In the light of the recent cut in airline services to Groote Eylandt, can he inform the Assembly if Ansett, MMA or TAA airlines have been approached regarding a decision to improve the service Darwin-Groote-Darwin and Darwin-Groote-Gove-Darwin?

ANSWER

In November last year I made strong representations to both MMA and Peter Nixon regarding the cuts in air services to Groote Eylandt. Following on from that, TAA proposed two extra direct Darwin-Groote-Darwin flights per week and I anticipate an answer from the federal Department for Transport on that application shortly. Support has been indicated for the introduction of those extra services and in addition to these representations, in recent weeks the Executive Member for Resources and Health has made representations on behalf of the mining town to expedite the earlier introduction of these services.

461 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr TUXWORTH

Can we expect the position of the dental therapist at Anula and Wulagi schools to be filled soon after 1 July this year, if the Prime Minister does agree to the transfer of the health functions to the Northern Territory executive on 1 July 1978?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as a part of my mind-reading exercise I have a prepared answer for the honourable member. The Department of Health informs me that an additional dental therapist and assistant have been recruited for the dental service and will open up Anula in the near future. Another therapist is under recruitment to open a further school dental clinic in the Alice Springs area and it is also hoped, Mr Speaker, to obtain additional positions in the not too distant future to enable the clinic at Wulagi and Nakara schools to open.

Mr Speaker, if I could just add to that some comment on my concern at the approach of the federal government in obtaining staff to serve us, as honourable members of this House would be aware, in recent days in the last month the Public Service Commissioner granted to the Department of Health an additional 60 positions to get them over their problems in the Northern Territory. However, there was a rider to that, Mr Speaker, that there were to be no further dental recruitments in that 60 positions. This is the very thing we would hope to overcome once the function becomes a Northern Territory responsibility, because there is no doubt in my mind that the bureaucrats in Canberra are quite out of touch with the needs of this area.

462 Mr DOOLAN to Mr EVERINGHAM

Has he met with local managers of TAA and Ansett to put the case for a reduction in the cost of airfares to and from the Territory? Has he written to the managing directors of these companies to further his case for a price reduction? If so, can he now advise this Assembly the results of his representations, particularly on the introduction of Apex fares for Territorians?

ANSWER

I did write to either the managing directors or the general managers of both airlines regarding the introduction of cheaper fares for the Northern Territory, and in particular the Apex type of fares. I had not received replies from the companies, so I then wrote to the Minister for Transport. After writing to the Minister for Transport, some days later I received replies from firstly TAA and subsequently I think Ansett. Neither of the replies was terribly satisfactory. However, TAA have arranged that some of their senior people will be coming to Darwin in the next month or so and they have asked them to meet me to discuss the matter. I have, of course, readily agreed to meet them.

463 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

My question is asked on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. Is the Northern Territory government endeavouring to hold the interest of overseas importers following the trade delegation's visits to Southeast Asia and the Middle East?

ANSWER

I indicated the other day that we would be tabling a report of the trade mission's findings. Certainly, when that report is examined we would be looking at ways of furthering the inquiries and keeping the interest going that was created by the trade delegation. At this stage I cannot outline to the House just what proposals we may have in mind. In the Department of Industrial Development there will be created a position for overseas marketing extension and no doubt further activity in this area will flow from that. At this early stage I am unable to give a clear outline of what the plans will be.

464 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr ROBERTSON

The reason I ask this question is that I have heard recently that there has been a cutback in the original estimate of the proposed Nhulunbuy area school. At one time there was high priority on that school. Can the executive member tell me if the plans have been finalised for the proposed high school at Nhulunbuy and will tenders be called this year?

ANSWER

As the honourable member for Nhulunbuy may be aware, final plans are never drawn up until after the hearings of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Public Works. It is anticipated that this committee of the federal parliament will deal with this matter in June this year. The tender target is still early 1979 and sketch plans suitable for the purpose of the standing committee are already finalised. There has been to my knowledge - and I have sought assurance on it - no cutbacks proposed at all, no deferral proposed, but it is necessary for the law of the Commonwealth to be complied with, including referral of such projects to the standing committee on public works.

465 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

Can he inform the Assembly whether or not the environmental impact statement on the East Arm power station has been completed and, if so, will he table the report?

ANSWER

I understand that such an environmental impact statement has not been completed.

466 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

Has the city council yet received leases for the three blocks of land on which it is proposed to build neighbourhood centres in Darwin?

ANSWER

I do not know the answer to the question but will seek the information and advise the honourable member during these sittings.

467 Mr HARRIS to Mr TUXWORTH

Has the Northern Territory Environmental Council made any approach to the executive member with regard to the proposed solar village project 35 kilometres south-east of Darwin?

ANSWER

Briefly, no. I have not had any approach from the Environmental Council on this particular exercise, although I do believe they have had discussions with the Majority Leader some time in the past. I would place on record, though, my concurrence with the concept that the Environmental Council has embarked on in the fringe area of Darwin. As soon as the Department of Mines and Energy is formed after 1 July, I would hope to play a more active role of support to this organisation in this particular exercise.

468 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr ROBERTSON

If the Prime Minister agrees to the transfer of the education functions on 1 July this year, would he give consideration to the question of making funds available for stocking libraries in Anula and Wulagi schools?

ANSWER

The honourable member never gives up an opportunity to do a little pork barrelling in her electorate; good on her, because that is what she is there for. The question is highly speculative and it would be improper for me to make any comment at this stage. As for the provision of books in all schools throughout the Territory, most certainly it would be the desire of my government, when it becomes a government, to ensure that proper library facilities are made available to all schools in the Territory.

469 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr TUXWORTH

With reference to the recently published Aboriginal mortality rate for the Northern Territory in the year 1977, could the honourable member advise me if the Northern Territory is in a worse position than other states, and if there is any particular reason for such a high death rate?

ANSWER

I do have a prepared answer from the Department of Health on this because I was anticipating a question on it, as I was with the dental centre in the schools. The reply I have had from the department is as follows:

Some of the comments on the recently published Aboriginal infant mortality rate for the Northern Territory for the year 1977 have been misleading. Firstly, it should be appreciated that the Northern Territory is the only state in Australia which is able to quote a figure and there is absolutely no evidence to say that the Northern Territory position is inferior to the situation in other states.

However, the number of Aboriginal births in the Territory is relatively small being 829 in 1977. The infant mortality rate is the number of infant deaths per thousand live births and is unduly affected by relatively small variations in infant deaths, which number 62 last year. It should be appreciated, Mr Speaker, that the Northern Territory Aboriginal infant mortality rate fell dramatically from over 80 prior to 1973 to a low 50's in 1974, 1975 and 1976. The upswing to 74.8 in 1977 may be little more than a statistical undulation.

In answer to the second part of the question, the fact that the Aboriginal infant mortality rate is so much higher than the non-Aboriginal figure reflects the environmental and nutritional standards of Aboriginals in

the Territory which is further evidenced by the high number of low-weight births. The situation is further complicated by the higher Aboriginal birth rate which was 37.3 per thousand last year. This is roughly twice the national average. This in turn leads to greater family size. The outstation movement, with its effect on antenatal attendance, could also be an additional factor.

However, Mr Speaker, for more than five years the Department of Health has stressed the need for improvements in environmental conditions if Aboriginal health standards are to improve markedly. The government intends to give priority to this problem when it takes over responsibility for health, hopefully in the near future.

470 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is it his intention to establish a parliamentary public works committee of this Assembly to examine and report on civil works programs following the transfer of those powers to his executive?

ANSWER

I ask that the honourable member for Nightcliff put that question on notice.

471 Mr VALE to Mr ROBERTSON

This question is asked on behalf of the member for Elsey. In view of the fact that the north of Australia is in Southeast Asia, does he intend to establish a university college with facilities for tropical medicine, tropical veterinary science and tropical agricultural science, to cater for people in the north of Australia and its neighbours in these essential fields?

ANSWER

The areas covered by the questions are matters which have been concerning my colleague, the Executive Member for Transport and Industry, in his responsibility for Primary Industry. Certainly, this executive is very concerned about proper research facilities being made available for the primary industry sector and, needless to say, we would be sharing those facilities with our Asian neighbours. In respect of the question: should we establish a university in the Northern Territory - I think it would be reasonable to suspect that this will be a long time in coming. We are very rapidly reaching the stage in many facilities or curricular areas where we have a college of advanced education in the Darwin Community College as it is, as we are now offering degree courses and more creditations are likely to come through. This is very encouraging. The difference, of course, between the college of advanced education and the university is the level of research facilities and it is a very expensive business when you get into professorial chairs. I think that would be some distance in the future.

As for the role of education in the Northern Territory with out Southeast Asian neighbours, it is very significant already. We have the Australasian Adult Educators Conference in Darwin this year. We have the Sixth Symposium of Inspectors of Schools of Southeast Asia and Pacific Regions and the Commonwealth in Darwin in mid-1979. We also have, under the auspices of a Commonwealth foundation, the establishment shortly of a Commonwealth professional centre which involves Southeast Asian countries very intimately with the Northern Territory. All these things taken together, Mr

Speaker, it would seem that the Northern Territory is cooperating in the field of education and is intending to cooperate even further with South-east Asian countries. I have no doubt that my colleague will look at the matter of the sharing of facilities for agricultural and veterinary science research.

472 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

What has the government done to assist the former staff members of SAATAS in an application for a charter operator's licence?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I cannot speak for the government except to say that personally, when notice was given of the withdrawal of the SAATAS company, our party supported the employees of SAATAS as best we could. We gave an assurance to the Darwin manager that we would support his application - not to the exclusion of other applications, but we would support his application - for a charter licence to operate out of Darwin. I personally rang the manager of SAATAS in Alice Springs, Kevin Turnbull, and asked if there was anything I could do to assist him with an application for a licence or whatever he chose to do. That is about where it rests at the moment. The proposition is that a company, to be called Air North, be formed by Mr Hardy and some of the business people in the town. I do not know just where that application is at the moment but that is the information I have.

473 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

Has a decision be made about the future of the old Darwin golf course at Fannie Bay? Does he anticipate that it will be incorporated into the East Point Reserve?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would not like to pre-empt any future decision on the future of the old Darwin golf course. I understand it sits a bit between the city corporation's jurisdiction and the jurisdiction of the East Point Reserve Board. This matter will have to be looked at carefully with all considerations being taken into account. I would not like to give any further answer than that at the present time.

474 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

When can I expect a reply to question No. 383 on notice - that is, what is the cost of installing the electricity supply at Larrimah - which was given to him on 19 April?

ANSWER

I am not sure when the honourable Leader of the Opposition can expect a reply to that question. It has not come to my notice. It is obviously still within the administrative machinery that questions on notice go through before they normally end up on the respective executive member's desk for approval prior to being supplied to the questioner. I will have the matter chased up and see if it can be expedited.

475 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

My question without notice is again asked on behalf of the member for

Elsey. Can he advise how many properties and farms have been surrendered in the last 12 months in the Northern Territory? I do not know whether I am allowed to include the next question into this one. Is he aware of the continuous faults in the land-line carrying ABC news from Sydney to the Northern Territory and what can we do about it?

Mr SPEAKER: The honourable executive member should answer the first question and leave the second one.

ANSWER

If I may, I will answer the first one and ask for the second one to be put on notice. I am not aware of any properties or farms that have been surrendered in the last 12 months. However, it is known that some mortgagee sales have occurred. Information on these mortgagee sales is somewhat difficult to obtain on short notice. However, if the honourable member wishes to have the information, I will endeavour to obtain it for him before the end of these sittings.

476 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr ROBERTSON

This is another attempt at pork barrelling for my electorate. I understand that funds were made available by the DRC for the planting of trees in the public car park abutting the Wulagi shopping centre. Why have the trees not been planted and when might we expect the planting to take place?

ANSWER

It seems that if we are going to expect the Darwin Reconstruction Commission to do it now, we will have to declare another "back to Darwin week" and probably have an arbor day with it. I have no information whatsoever on the honourable member's question but will certainly look into it. I imagine that the trees would either have overgrown their pots at this stage or be dead.

477 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

Is he aware of any decision about the future use of the land and buildings on the old Arafura Hostel site?

ANSWER

No. The future of the site, I understand, is still under consideration. There are a variety of possible future uses for the site and it is under consideration by the relevant parties.

478 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

This question is asked on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. Is he aware of allegations made by the National Cattle Union director in the Queensland Country Life edition of 20 April? If so, are the statements in that edition factual or merely an indication of Mr Cassel's pathological hatred of the federal Minister for Primary Industry, the Honourable Ian Sinclair?

ANSWER

I have seen the article that the honourable member for Stuart refers to

and certainly that article does contain serious allegations against the federal government. It would be up to them to answer the allegations rather than myself because they are quite detailed and they would involve a lot of research. As to the second part of the question, obviously I am not qualified to make comment on that.

479 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can he tell the House whether the Majority Party executive has considered the establishment of a central purchasing authority to enable it to purchase goods and stores for the Northern Territory Public Service?

ANSWER

I ask that the honourable member for Sanderson place that question on notice.

480 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TUXWORTH

Is he aware of moves within the pest control industry for the licensing of operators using pesticides, and is he supporting this move and intending to introduce legislation to regulate the industry?

ANSWER

I am aware that in some states of Australia there are very strong moves to license people who are heavily involved in the use and control of pesticides. I am not aware of the present state of the formulation of legislation in the Northern Territory but in the event of it becoming an Australian national standard, we will most certainly pick it up.

481 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr STEELE

Is it a fact that items of heavy plant are receiving licence renewals which are endorsed to the effect that they cannot use certain roads at certain times? If this is so, is it a permanent or temporary arrangement?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the exact details, although the question could be described as being correct - that some restrictions or regulations have been placed on slow-moving vehicles. It is certainly part of our plan, eventually, to provide fast-moving lanes and have slow-moving vehicles off the roads at certain times. However, to answer the question properly, I will refer it back to the department so that the answer can be adequate.

485 Mr DONDAS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Has a date been set with Western Australia and Queensland for a conference to implement the proposed coast-watch service for Northern Australia?

ANSWER

Earlier this year the director-general of my department wrote to the under-secretaries of the premier's departments in Queensland and Western Australia, seeking agreement for a meeting of appropriate officials to discuss the practicality of establishing a volunteer coast-watch service. So far there has been no official response other than the announcement by the Premier of Queensland that he would support such a service. Last week the under-secretaries were again contacted and an early response is expected. I would expect this response to be favourable and can assure the Assembly that we will have a meeting as soon as possible.

486 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

My question concerns the recent fishing activities of the Prime Minister in Dreaming Waters wildlife sanctuary and is a result of legal advice I have received. Could the honourable executive member inform this House of the names of all non-Aboriginal members of the party that fished in Dreaming Waters and does the wildlife section intend to prosecute these people under section 25A of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Ordinance?

ANSWER

I will have to ask that that question be placed on notice.

487 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr TUXWORTH

I understand that a health centre is planned for the Howard Springs area. Could the honourable executive member advise the current situation?

ANSWER

My understanding is that there is provision for the construction of a health centre in the Howard Springs area. I believe this centre is to be incorporated with the new school that is to be built in the area and that the contract for it has been let to Sitzler Bros and that the completion date for the contract is December 1978.

488 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

Will he confirm that the teenage son of the chairman of the Primary Producers Board was employed at Scott Creek-Willeroo by the Primary Producers Board on adult wages during his school holidays at a time when nearly 4,000 people were registered as unemployed in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

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

489 Mr HARRIS to Mr TUXWORTH

Could the honourable executive member advise me the present situation with regard to repairs to the industrial staff amenities building at the Darwin Hospital?

ANSWER

I will have to ask that that question be placed on notice.

490 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TUXWORTH

Can he indicate to this House when he expects to introduce legislation repealing the present Mental Defectives Ordinance and replacing it with modern legislation?

ANSWER

Off the top of my head I cannot give the honourable member an assurance on the proposed introduction date for this new legislation. I can assure the honourable member that this side of the House shares the same concern about the inadequacies of the existing legislation as the honourable member does herself and we are doing everything we can to have it brought forward.

491 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

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

ANSWER

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

492 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it a fact that there has been a number of submissions put before the executive by persons interested in obtaining casino licences for Darwin and Alice Springs? If so, can the executive member advise me when it is likely that a decision will be made to grant licences for casino operations at these centres?

ANSWER

It is a fact that submissions have been placed before the executive for the consideration of casino licences. The total number of applicants in all is 15, of whom three are international interests who would be prepared to come to the Northern Territory and invest in such a scheme as the operation of a casino. A short list has been established of the proponents who would be considered and with whom the Northern Territory government will have further discussions. On this short list, there are three large companies and four local companies who would have very acceptable proposals. At this stage, Mr Speaker, the proposals in principle have to be discussed with the department and there is a lot more information to be obtained from the proponents of these schemes.

I would also like to point out to honourable members of the House, Mr Speaker, that before anybody can be given a licence to operate a casino in the Northern Territory, legislation has to be introduced in this House and honourable members will have more than a reasonable opportunity to discuss the matter at that stage. In any event, I would not envisage further developments taking place before Christmas this year.

493 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Can he inform the House what was the interest rate given to the receiver of NADC for the advance of $150,000 by the Primary Producers Board and over what period of time was the loan for?

ANSWER

I ask the Leader of the Opposition to place his question on notice.

494 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it true that he has requested legislation to amend the Lottery and Gaming Ordinance to include the TAB system of betting?

ANSWER

At this stage there has been no direction given to the draftsman to prepare legislation for the introduction of TAB. However, Mr Speaker, it would be fair to say that any consideration of this matter would be closely allied to the service that is rendered to the public by the existing bookmaking fraternity.

495 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

Can he now tell us the estimated value of the crop on the Scott Creek-Willeroo project which was used as a lien for the loan? Have the crops yet been harvested and if not, when will they be harvested?

ANSWER

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

496 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr STEELE

Can he tell the House what was the purpose of the Encouragement of Primary Production Bill of which notice was given last week? Can he tell us why it was allowed to lapse and can he also inform us whether he will be reintroducing that bill or a similar bill in this Assembly?

ANSWER

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

497 Mr HARRIS to Mr STEELE

Could the executive member please tell me the number of taxis involved in the current taxi dispute?

ANSWER

I understand there are six licences involved in the current disputation and that resolution may be some time away. I indicated to the House the other day that there would be no early resolution of the problem and that legislation would be drafted as soon as the policy instructions can be given to the draftsman. We forecast there will be no introduction of that type of legislation before July.

498 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr STEELE

What was the legislative basis upon which a loan of $150,000 was extended by the Primary Producers Board to the receiver of Scott Creek-Willeroo?

ANSWER

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

499 Mr OLIVER to Mr STEELE

Is it a fact that future radio and TV licences have to go before a public inquiry?

ANSWER

I am advised that all commercial radio and TV stations in the Northern Territory have to go before a public inquiry for the renewal of their licence. If I may just comment briefly, I think this is a real good thing. The standard of news services is virtually non-existent, as far as the commercial stations are concerned, and we would see that better competition could be afforded the major news reporting service in this area if it was recommended to the inquiry that the minor services be asked to provide a proper news service.

500 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr TUXWORTH

Could the honourable executive member advise me what progress has been made with the new health facilities at Alyangula?

ANSWER

My understanding of the Alyangula situation is that a new health centre and two houses were to be constructed at Alyangula and a contract was let to Gateway Investments who went into liquidation. I believe the construction phase reached about 50% completion and the Department of Construction is now calling for tenders to complete the rest of the facility and that the intended completion date, if all goes well and to target, would be December 1978.

501 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can he inform the Assembly what the terms of settlement were between the Department of the Northern Territory, acting on the advice of Mr Ian Barker QC, and Technic Ten, the Perth-based consultant company, to settle the suit brought by Technic Ten against the Darwin Reconstruction Commission?

ANSWER

I certainly cannot inform the Assembly of those terms of settlement. I do not know them myself and, as far as I am concerned, it is a matter entirely within the province of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission and or the Department of the Northern Territory. I believe any question in this regard would be better asked in the federal House.

502 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

Health ministers from all states met in Sydney last Friday to consider the

implications of federal government cutbacks in health spending and changes in health insurance. Was the executive member invited to this meeting? If so, did he attend? If not, are these changes likely to affect the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

My understanding is that the meeting held in Sydney last Friday was to be chaired by the New South Wales Minister for Health, the honourable Mr Stuart, and it was to be in fact a joint Commonwealth-state meeting to consider the implications of any changes to Medibank. I believe the federal minister did not attend the meeting in the final analysis, mainly because federal Cabinet had deferred any proposals on changes to Medibank at that time. The Northern Territory was not invited to attend the meeting. I do not know the reason for this, Mr Speaker, other than the fact that the Northern Territory is not a signatory to the Medibank agreement, as are the states, and for that reason we may not have carried the weight that the New South Wales Minister for Health was looking for in his agreement.

503 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

In order to clear up a great deal of public confusion which is current, could the executive member make a public announcement concerning the accessibility of areas within the Alligator Rivers region? Would he clearly define in that public announcement areas to which public access is: one, unrestricted, two, restricted; and three, prohibited?

ANSWER

I will take note of the honourable member's point and see whether a statement can be placed before the House at a suitable time.

504 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

What assistance will the Bush Fire Control Council be providing for farmers in the rural area during the coming dry season?

ANSWER

I understand there will be various levels of assistance - that is, assisting farming communities in forming voluntary units, providing advice and expertise and training volunteer groups, construction of fire breaks and hazard reduction, attending various farmers' meetings in an advisory capacity, purchasing additional trailer units to be deployed in strategic areas, selected aerial control burning in areas that could threaten farmers, monitoring of the wildfire risk areas and advising property owners accordingly and, where resources are available, assisting in the control of wildfire.

505 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

I refer to his announcement last month that a new office building would be erected by the Housing Commission at Casuarina. Was the Corporation of the City of Darwin consulted before the executive member announced that the council would be one of the tenants of the building?

ANSWER

There was a meeting called of interested parties to discuss which govern-

ment departments would be interested in taking space at a complex which might be built at Casuarina and, in addition to this, circulars were sent to all relevant departments including local government on the subject. The information I have available to me is that they did indicate an interest in having some space in the Northern suburbs. Therefore, they were indicated in papers on the subject as a potential tenant. If I recall rightly, it was for very few people - only two or three - to be located out in the northern suburbs. However, if the honourable member wants further information, I will endeavour to gather it for her.

506 Mr VALE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can he advise what progress has been made towards formulating a policy for the Northern Territory Public Service housing?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Public Service consultative council has established a subcommittee to examine the matter of a housing policy for the Northern Territory Public Service. The subcommittee includes a senior representative from the Department of the Northern Territory Housing Branch and the chairman of the Housing Commission. The committee has met twice; it is well advanced with its work and will be meeting again within a week. It is expected that the subcommittee will have completed its work by the end of May and will have reported to the consultative council. The consultative council will review the matter and make a recommendation to the Public Service Commissioner. In the light of the report from the consultative council, the Public Service Commissioner will determine and is expected to promulgate a housing policy for the Northern Territory Public Service within the first two weeks of June.

507 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

What is the contractural relationship between the Northern Territory executive and Professor Daniel O'Connell, referred to by the member for Casuarina in his dissertion on Westminster the other day? Is Professor O'Connell the same gentleman who is the constitutional advisor to the Queensland government?

ANSWER

Professor Daniel O'Connell is a distinguished jurist and a former professor of jurisprudence at either Adelaide or Flinders University of South Australia. In fact, Professor O'Connell is an author who has written internationally accepted works - for instance, on the lives of such statesmen as Cardinal Richlieu, the grey eminence behind Louis XIII, King of France.

Mrs O'Neil: He was a conservative, too.

Mr EVERINGHAM: Yes, he was a very effective conservative too. Professor O'Connell is presently an Oxford don. I think he is professor of mediaeval or modern history at one of the Oxford colleges.

Mrs Lawrie: If it's mediaeval, it should help us.

Mr EVERINGHAM: Well, we are trying to bring you out of the dark ages but you are really not anxious to come. The fact of the matter is that Professor O'Connell was a member of a party sent by the Queensland government to the Northern Territory in January, as part of a response by a

number of state governments to a request that the Northern Territory executive passed on to all state premiers for assistance. The Queensland government sent Professor O'Connell up to talk to us with this party because Professor O'Connell happened to be in Brisbane at the time. I have certainly established no contractural relationship with Professor O'Connell. The Northern Territory's constitutional adviser is well known to the Leader of the Opposition because I have passed a copy of his opinion onto the Leader of the Opposition and to every member of this House. He is Professor Geoffrey Saywer, Professor of Constitutional History of the Australian National University.

The fact of the matter is that the Queensland government made a swift and helpful response to our request for assistance and has helped us in drafting legislation and in a few other areas. In fact their help can be contrasted to the lack of help displayed by some other state governments, and I would certainly except Tasmania from that statement.

508 Mr HARRIS to Mr ROBERTSON

Could he tell me when - an approximate date will suffice - the last meeting of the Place Names Committee was held?

ANSWER

I will attempt to find the answer to the honourable member's question at a later time, or at least determine the answer, and let him know later this day.

509 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr TUXWORTH

Is he aware that a company called Urangesellschaft Australia Pty Ltd has applied for an exploration licence over an area comprising some 356 square miles from the Blackmore River to the eastern boundary of the 32-square-mile area? Can he inform us what rights an exploration licence confers upon the licensee, and can he inform us what the statutory period for the lodging of objections is?

ANSWER

I am aware that Urangesellschaft has taken out an application for an exploration licence in the area that the honourable member mentioned and I have some comments that I would like to pass on to the honourable member and the House to explain the situation. Before doing so, I would like to point out two things. The first one is that the Mines Branch in the Northern Territory has traditionally placed mining reserves over built-up areas or residential areas to prevent any such situation which would enable mining companies to take out licences over residential town sites and residential areas. In the Darwin situation, the Mines Branch has not been able to keep abreast of the development in the rural areas and has consequently left some areas that are not covered by a mining reserve - areas over which, in fact, mining companies are entitled to take out an exploration licence. The other point I would like to make before going on is that, in the event of a mining company making an application for an exploration licence, there is no provision under the existing law - and I regard this as a deficiency - for the Administrator to refuse the application. Having accepted the application, he is then obliged to go through many statutory moves to enable the exploration licence to come before him for final decision.

The applications, totalling some 300 square miles, were lodged by Urangesellschaft Australia Pty Ltd on 15 August 1977 for exploration licences Nos. 1706 and 1707. Their location, Mr Speaker, is on a map that I have here which I am quite happy to make available to the honourable member.

In accordance with section 38E(5)(b) of the Mining Ordinance, notice of the application has been given within the past few days to the 1,016 private landholders affected by the applications. Mr Speaker, this is a statutory provision wherein the Mines Branch is obliged to advise any landholders - be they pastoralists, Aboriginals, private leaseholders or whatever - of an application over their area. The applications will also be advertised, probably on 16 May 1978, and as the objection period expires 28 days from the date of advertisement, this effectively gives private landholders six weeks in which to lodge their objections to the application for exploration licence. Any objections received are notified to the applicant who is afforded the opportunity to make a written answer to the objection and this in turn is transmitted to the landholder by the Mines Branch. If the objector is not fully satisfied, it is also possible for the mining company to consult directly with the landholder as to the terms and conditions under which they will operate on his land. If the objection is still unresolved after completion of these procedures, this must be taken into account by the Administrator when the application for exploration licence is finally put up for decision, and it is then that the Administrator has a prerogative to determine whether or not the application should be granted in repsect of the particular block of land.

Mr Speaker, if an exploration licence is granted over private land, a number of additional provisions are always included to protect the interests of the landholder. An example of such provisions is shown in the attached draft document which I would also like to make available to the honourable member, in which conditions are included specifically to cover operations on private land. There is provision in the Mining Ordinance for compensation to be paid for any damage to improvements or loss of use of private land. This has always been in the ordinance, Mr Speaker, and is actively being used daily between mining companies and private landholders. This is administered by requiring the applicant for an exploration licence which covers private land to lodge a substantial bond. Compensation for damage may be agreed upon between the applicant and the landholder or, failing such an agreement, may be assessed by the mining warden and payment made under provisions of the bond held by the Mines Branch.

In practice, Mr Speaker, it is very rare that satisfactory arrangements for access to private land cannot be agreed on between the applicant and the landholder. It should be noted that, in the initial stages of exploration, work generally consists of regional investigations such as airborn geophysical surveys and geological studies which involve only minimal disturbance to the ground. If encouraging indications are obtained during these regional investigations, follow-up work such as drilling is usually confined to a very small portion of the exploration licence area. If as a result of the work on an exploration licence, a minable ore body is discovered, the proposals for its development are put forward. Applications for the lease would then have to be made which again are subject to safeguards providing hearings at the Warden's Court at which further objections from landholders may be lodged.

I would like to take the opportunity to allay any fears that the honourable member for Sanderson or members of this House may have about the

application lodged by the company. It is perfectly normal in terms of their operation. As honourable members of the House would know, the company is obliged each year to surrender 50% of its existing holding and there is very little likelihood of any of the final part of its holding being taken up in the Darwin area.

510 Mr ISAACS to Mr SPEAKER

In view of the fact that you asked for questions to be brief and to give very little details, I wonder if you would ask executive members to make their replies to questions also brief?

ANSWER

I accept the question. It is the practice in all parliaments that answers to questions should be as full as possible. This is usually done on the assumption that it is a genuine question and the reply should be full enough to preclude the question from being asked again. I think you will find that in Standing Orders. I have no intention of trying to curtail the length of answers.

511 Mr VALE to Mr TUXWORTH

I am a bit apprehensive about asking this question of the executive member for Health and Resources, but could he advise whether there are any plans for improving the health service in the Finke area?

ANSWER

My understanding is that there is already a health service in the Finke area and I also believe there are plans going on at the moment to upgrade the service. I believe the Department of Health has entered into an agreement with the Australian Inland Mission, by making provision of funds - through what mechanism I cannot be sure, but I think the amount is $48,000 - for the provision of a new health facility in the Finke area. My understanding is also - and I am sure honourable members will be happy to hear this - that the construction of the new facility is going to be carried out by the Aputula Building Company in Finke which is a wholly-owned Aboriginal company.

512 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr TUXWORTH

What arrangements have been made for pupils of older schools which do not have the benefit of dental therapy units, which are being established in the new schools, to benefit from the provision of these facilities?

ANSWER

I would ask the honourable member to place that question on notice because I believe it is a question that is worthy of a detailed answer and I do not have the information at the moment.

513 Mr ISAACS to Mr ROBERTSON

Is it true that the town clerk of the Corporation of the City of Darwin, acting as the returning officer in the recent city council elections, was paid an honorarium in addition to salary for the conduct of the Darwin City Council elections?

ANSWER

This is one of those questions which may take a little time to answer. The answer to the question in fact is no. He was not paid an honorarium at all; he was paid an additional salary within the provisions of section 85 of the Local Government Ordinance.

If I may deal with that section - because this is something that I know the Leader of the Opposition is concerned about and I think the air should be cleared on it once and for all. Section 85(1) states:

> *The Council may, not less than 14 days before nomination day, appoint a person to be the Returning Officer to preside at an election.*

And then (1)(a) of that section says:

> *If no person is appointed under the last preceding subsection, then the Clerk shall be the Returning Officer.*

It is clear that it has got into the minds of some people that the clerk, having been appointed in lieu of a person, is not a person within the meaning of section 85 of the ordinance. My advice is that this is quite incorrect. The clerk was appointed, in fact, pursuant to the provisions of section 85 of the Local Government Ordinance, as he was appointed to the position of returning officer more than 14 days before nomination day and is therefore a perfectly legitimate person for subsection (2) of section 85 to apply to. This simply says:

> *The Council shall, before appointing a person ...*

and they have appointed a person, a returning officer -

> *... determine the amount of the fee to be paid to him as Returning Officer ...*

And then it goes on with other provisions.

It is worth the honourable Leader of the Opposition being aware that this man spent some 51 hours outside of his normal working time. That surely, within labor philosophy, would be way above and beyond the call of duty. I would doubt the Leader of the Opposition would be implying, as a member of the Labor Party, that a man is not to be rewarded for his work. Indeed the clerk, acting not as clerk but as returning officer appointed under section 85, was paid in respect of long hours of work which he did outside his normal course of duty. It is not unusual for this to happen. In fact, it is quite standard. Indeed, on one occasion I understand he worked about 17 hours straight, from Saturday right through counting on Saturday night and into Sunday morning. Although I may have had some apprehensions about it when this was first brought to my attention, I now think that the action taken by the council in paying this man for the work he did was perfectly proper.

514 Mr OLIVER to Mr STEELE

Has the Northern Territory executive decided yet on a Territory name for the new reflectorised number-plates?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory executive has decided and the new number-plate will

look something like this, the name "NT - Outback Australia" is on the bottom of the number-plate, and the $250 award will go to Hodgson River School.

515 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

My question is in relation to the Douglas-Daly experiment station which is on a sublease from Douglas Station, owned by Sir William Gunn, now in liquidation. Could he advise the present tenure situation? It is my understanding that it is a 12-monthly term, expiring on 30 June. Why was the Douglas-Daly experiment station established on such a weak tenure basis, considering the amount of money spent there and that it was established for the purpose of closer settlement in the Tipperary land system? Is it a fact that the whole deal started on a mates-basis deal between Sir William Gunn and the ex-Director of Agriculture, Bill Curteis, over the loan of a Tipperary bulldozer?

Mr SPEAKER: I direct that the question be placed on notice. It is too long to answer.

516 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr PERRON

Why was the North Australian Show Society showgrounds, which has about $750,000 investment in buildings and fences etc, zoned 02 which I understand is for open space in the recent Town Plan?

ANSWER

It seems to me that an 02 zoning for the Show Society area is probably quite appropriate. It is primarily an open-space zone. However, it has a number of permitted uses including indoor recreation - which I guess is a reasonable description of Show Society type activities - and in addition to that, there are 22 consent uses under an 02 zone. This provides a wide range of flexibility for the land in question to be used for a range of purposes but primarily directed as use by the public, even though the public can of course be charged fees for entry and the like. I think it is quite a suitable zoning for the Show Society.

517 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is it his intention to establish juvenile aid panels in the Northern Territory to augment and supplement the work of the Juvenile Court?

ANSWER

I cannot give any definite answer to the honourable member for Nightcliff on her question at the moment. I suggest that she place the question on notice and I will take it up with the Department of Law which is working on this particular problem. Certainly I would say that by the next Assembly we may be able to make certain announcements which I think would give quite a deal of heart to people working in the juvenile aid field in the Northern Territory.

518 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

My question is in connection with a statement that was made recently in the Northern Territory News by Joe Fisher concerning the tourist appeal of buffalo. Does the Northern Territory executive intend to allow buffalo to remain in the Kakadu National Park or is the eradication program which is currently carried out in wildlife reserves to be extended to the national park?

ANSWER

I think this question would properly be in the province of the Northern Territory parks commission to reply to and I will endeavour to have a reply from them in answer to the honourable member later in the sittings.

519 Mr HARRIS to Mr TUXWORTH

Does the executive member have any information on the proposed off-shore quarantine station which would be used to screen refugees?

ANSWER

The only information we have on it at this stage is that the federal government is contemplating establishing such a quarantine station. The only comment I would make on it is that this party would wholeheartedly support such a proposal because we believe the greatest threat we have to us at the moment in the north is the introduction of exotic diseases that would prejudice our position.

520 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

Is it a fact that private individuals on the recent Northern Territory trade delegations, although their travel expenses were subsidised by the government, are not obliged to divulge any of their findings with regard to future overseas markets available to the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I do not know how you would put them under that sort of obligation. If there were private transactions which they were currently engaged with, well obviously, they would want to keep silent on the names of those people involved. Certainly, the general theme would be the types of transactions and the market opportunities open to the Northen Territory. I think that would probably cover the question.

521 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

Could he tell me approximately what amount of money has been made available for the control of such noxious weeds as victacide, flannel weed, cassia weed and other common noxious weeds on crown land in the Top End, bearing in mind the legal obligation of private landholders to try and eradicate these weeds?

ANSWER

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

522 Mr DONDAS to Mr ROBERTSON

How many rooms at Nakara Primary School are being used by the Department of Education for its curriculum and media sections and when is the Department of Education going to remove these sections from the Nakara school to allow the premises to be used for its original intention of teaching children?

ANSWER

The Nakara Primary School is not one which we could normally apply the term "rooms" to. It is what is termed an "open plan school" and it is limited as to the number of rooms it has. It has areas or units. The information I have on this particular school - incidently it is a question anyone could anticipate because there always seems to be some jealousy of people in the curriculum area using anything to do with space for students. The fact is that unless we have curriculum direction in our schools, then there is not much point going to school ...

A member: Put them in another building.

Mr ROBERTSON: Well, the honourable member says put them in another building. Perhaps if he could lease us one, we might be in business. The normal student accommodation consists of two infant units and four primary units, each of which are designed to accommodate a number of class groups. In addition to that, there is a library. Of these areas, the Nakara school is occupying the two infant units and one primary unit while the remaining three primary units and the library are occupied by the curriculum and media branch and its personnel. The Department of Education has on its works proposal for 1978-79 a new curriculum and media centre to be constructed on the site of the former Rapid Creek Infant School.

523 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

In view of the serious allegations that have been made about the role of the Primary Producers Board in relation to the Scott Creek-Willeroo complex, will the Majority Leader request an immediate special audit to be carried out by the Commonwealth Auditor-General?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the very serious allegations that have been levelled in respect of the proposed purchase of Willeroo. I have heard of allegations that someone was paid adult wages when, in fact, he was a child. That is the only allegation, as far as I can see, that concerns the actual expenditure of money. I think the honourable member for Victoria River, with some of his usual innuendo, inferred that money might have been spent on an aeroplane charter. I have investigated that and found it was quite untrue. The charterer, Mr Tilly of Katherine, in fact told the honourable member for Victoria River before he spoke in this House on the subject that the bills had gone to the person concerned and not to the Primary Producers Board. So, we can see the level of honesty and fair representation that has been given to the whole thing in this House. The fact of the matter is that there is absolutely no requirement, that I can see, for a special audit. The accounts of the Primary Producers Board will be audited in the usual way by the Auditor-General when the time comes.

524 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

Has the Department of Correctional Services approached the Department of

Health to arrange a special security area at the Casuarina Hospital for sick prisoners?

ANSWER

My understanding is that the Department of Health has not been approached in this matter and there is no proposal for a security area in the new hospital.

525 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?

ANSWER

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

526 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

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

ANSWER

I would have to say that I have no idea what the current bank overdraft rates are.

527 Mr HARRIS to Mr STEELE

I understand there is currently litigation involving the taxi plate owners and the taxi licence holders. Could the honourable member please clarify the situation?

ANSWER

I am sorry about this but it involves about a page and a half of reply. On Wednesday 3 May a request was made by the registered owner and licence holder of public hire car licence 105, to transfer the public hire car licence and registration to another vehicle. At the time the registration expired, which was Sunday 7 May, this application was refused by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, acting on legal advice that he could not approve this. The reasons for this were as follows:

On Friday 5 May the vehicle from which the above transfer was requested was presented by the person who has stated he is the legal owner of the vehicle and sought re-registration. This was not granted because there was nothing to indicate authorisation by the registered owner and licence holder. The request earlier in the week that I have already referred to, in fact, suggested that the necessary authority would not be forthcoming. It was, however, indicated to this applicant there would be no objection to him obtaining normal registration for the vehicle. To date, no such request has been received so the vehicle is currently unregistered.

I understand the registered owner and licence holder is taking legal action to have the registrar allow him to register the vehicle he presented on Wednesday 3 May and unless the decision of the registrar is overturned, it is expected that the public hire car licence involved will have lapsed.

Requests have been made for temporary public and even private hire car licences and the build-up of tourist demand with "Back to Darwin" has been used as a reason for this. This is not possible, however, because the ordinance requires any issue to be put to tender. It has been necessary to hold back consideration of public hire car licences while the difficulties of the current situation are untangled. But I have already indicated that favourable consideration will be made to applications for special tourist purposes permits and licences to cover sightseeing requirements.

We have a difficult problem because the 1973 changes to the legislation aim specifically at giving licences value. This was introduced by the former member for Ludmilla. While it seems clear that it was not envisaged that leasing arrangements would develop, this has happened and the law is silent on the matter. It is accepted by all parties that legislation is needed to remedy the various problems. It is unlikely that all will agree to the same solution but I hope we can tackle the matter constructively and not treat it as a political point-scoring exercise. In saying this, I am sure the honourable Opposition members are aware that the main problems have come from the legislation supported by all members at the time. Hansard debate of Wednesday 21 February 1973, page 125, refers to that legislation.

We are intending to issue drafting instructions to improve the legislation for the taxi situation in the Northern Territory. As I have said before, however, I cannot assure members of the priority that the legislation will receive because there are many pressing drafting requirements but I am looking at practical avenues of reducing interim difficulties and plan to call tenders for additional plates after examination of all the factors involved.

528 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

When did the consulting firm AANCM begin its investigations into the feasibility of the purchase of the Willeroo complex? Has this firm completed its investigations and how much will this firm be paid for its investigations?

ANSWER

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

529 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Can he give an assurance to this House that questions being placed on notice regarding the Scott Creek-Willeroo affair will not suffer the same fate as question 212 which has been on notice since December?

ANSWER

I am sure that when all the difficulties of sorting out the transfer of powers to this Assembly in July are resolved, the streamlining and the exercise of getting questions back a little faster will resolve itself.

530 Mr DONDAS to Mr ROBERTSON

What is the present situation regarding the permanent building structures at Tracey Village? I specifically refer to the building which houses the Tracey Village Social Club, Wanguri Creche, the doctor's surgery etc. Is this building structure to be handed over to the Corporation of the City

of Darwin as intended or is it to remain under control of its present administrator, the Department of Administrative Services?

ANSWER

The Department of Administrative Services will be bowing out of the Tracey Village complex entirely. The area known as the Darwin Reconstruction Village will transfer back to the Department of Defence. Members will probably know that it is being used as a youth hostel at the moment. The Tracey Village complex itself will be handed over to the Darwin City Corporation. The Department of Administrative Services and the Valuer-General's Department are at the moment doing a rental valuation in respect of that property which, in my understanding, will be quite nominal. When those administrative details are worked out, the program for the transfers can be brought into operation. Just to repeat the point, Mr Speaker, the Department of Administrative Services no longer have any role in that area.

531 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

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

ANSWER

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

532 Mr OLIVER to Mr ROBERTSON

Has the future role of the Sadadeen High School been determined and, if so, for what purpose is it intended to use that facility?

ANSWER

I might say that the resolution of the problem of the role and future of the Sadadeen High School is a classic example to me of the level of cooperation which now exists between the Northern Territory division of the Department of Education and myself. In fact at the risk of perhaps saying the wrong thing, for all intents and purposes, policy-wise, I now virtually control the NT division of the Department of Education. I mean that quite seriously. There is no major policy decision taken by that group without my clearance. It is a demonstration that this executive is capable of taking it over at any time due to the fact that it has now had long experience in the policy area, with the Department of Education, of the function of education.

In specific answer to the question, the division hopes to appoint a principal of the Sadadeen High School in July this year - let us call him a commissioning principal - who will take charge of the program in the same manner as a medical registrar does in hospitals, being a commissioning registrar.

It is proposed to open Sadadeen as a fully comprehensive secondary high school and a second secondary high school for Alice Springs. Initially, years 8 and 9 will be commenced and the years will be built up from there, through to full matriculation. It is not proposed to zone Alice Springs in respect of the existing Alice Springs high school vis-a-vis that of the Sadadeen high school. Detailed arrangements as to bussing will be made, having regard to the geographic location of both schools.

Further, there has been concern expressed that if both high schools are to become fully comprehensive high schools, then it is going to be difficult for parents, of course, to choose between the two. Well, as with all high schools in cities, they take on their own character as a result of the nature of the building, its location and, of course, the various attitudes and attributes of the principals and staffs. I am quite sure that the parents will be well served by the new high school, as they are now being well served by the old high school. They will not be in competition in my view but will complement each other.

533 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr STEELE

Can he inform the House whether in November or December 1977, advice was sought from the Lands Branch on the Northern Territory executive's proposal to purchase the Scott Creek-Willeroo property? If not, why not and, if advice was sought, what was the advice?

ANSWER

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

534 Mr COLLINS to Mr ROBERTSON

My question is asked in connection with recent statements by the honourable member concerning the Northern Territory Teachers Federation being out of touch with the wishes of teachers regarding the formation of the new Northern Territory Education Commission. In respect of the 1,400 members of the Teachers Federation, is the honourable member aware of the procedures that have been taken by the NTTF to advise these people of their policy on this matter and to solicit contributions from teachers to it, and is the honourable member aware of a recent meeting of staff at Casuarina High School that passed a motion supporting the NTTF and condemning the honourable member for the statements he has made?

ANSWER

I will deal with the last part of the question first. I most certainly received what could only be described as a rather rude and impertinent telegram from someone who purported to represent the Casuarina teaching fraternity.

Mr Collins: Forty-five out of forty-six.

Mr ROBERTSON: If that particular vote was taken from that particular school, then of course it was not taken having regard to all the information available. I have now been advised yesterday of the procedures which the Northern Territory Teachers Federation has taken in respect of advising its members of its policy and that series of circulars sent out by the NTTF would indeed demonstrate that they have made an effort to seek the views of their members. The reality of the matter, to get back to the regional meeting in Darwin, is that the Northern Territory Teachers Federation proposal was handsomely defeated or deferred on the grounds that teachers had not been consulted. It is all very fine for the Northern Territory teachers service to make an effort - and I recognise that it has made an effort - and then claim, because they have made an effort, that the opinion they are putting up necessarily reflects the rank and file view. Quite clearly, when you have a figure of something like 38 to 18 of the teachers at that regional meeting and those teachers only went to that regional meeting in my view of the matter because of the nature of the article appearing on page three of the NT News - they were scared into going to it - and remembering this is the fourth attempt of the NTTF

to get that regional branch meeting going, having got there as a result of this article on page three of the NT News, they then instructed the Northern Territory Teachers Federation not to proceed with that policy any further until such time as they had had a chance to look at it. I think those facts speak for themselves. No argument can get over the fact that the representative group of this region of the Northern Territory Teachers Federation believed they were not consulted as a result of that policy.

I might take the opportunity to state publicly, as I have stated in other forums and in press statements which do not seem to get printed, that I thank the Northern Territory Teachers Federation and COGSO and the executives of both those organisations for the courtesy and help they have given the executive in coming to a decision in relation to education. I make that quite clear. But for the Northern Territory Teachers Federation to come out with a statement the other day that I have denied them interviews is a scandalous untruth. The fact of the matter is they have met with me on numerous occasions and on no occasion have I ever denied the executive of either of those bodies a right to interview with myself and indeed the Majority Leader has personally met with them twice. We have attended their conferences; we have opened their conferences; we have attended their social functions. I have sat down at the sailing club and had a beer with them so I could be exposed to them, so they could really give me a hard time if they wished. To say that we have not consulted from my side is absolute nonsense.

535 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr STEELE

Can the honourable member inform the House what is the legal position with the issuing of Northern Territory aircraft charter licences?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory has no legal responsibility or ability at all in the area of the issue of air charter licences. However, I did speak to the Minister for Transport last night about this matter and he has indicated to me that he was quite pleased to transfer the licensing of air charter aircraft to the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly as soon as it could be expedited. This is properly a state-type function and we do not see that it would be any different in the Northern Territory than what it is in the other states.

536 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr TUXWORTH

In view of the fact that Tuckwell Court is available for independent pensioners and that Tracey Lodge has now been completed for the frail aged, what action is being taken by the Department of Health to build the Harry Chan Memorial Nursing Home for pensioners requiring that accommodation?

ANSWER

The short answer is I do not know, but I will endeavour to find out and answer the honourable member later in these sittings.

537 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

Is there a proposal somewhere to develop a policy for feral animals in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

There is no proposal before us as yet. There is a proposal, however, to invite representatives of CSIRO, the Bureau of Animal Health, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the Wildlife Service of the Northern Territory, the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch to form a committee to study the requirements of the future policy needs of the Top End of the Northern Territory, based on the abundance of buffalo and the fact that there is quite a lot of food there going to waste and there is a need for some conservation in these areas. It is in my court to put that committee together but, as yet, I have been unable to secure the resources to form that committee. However, the committee will be formed in the next couple of months and we hope to commence our studies.

538 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 Scott Creek-Willeroo properties in January this year?

ANSWER

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

539 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

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

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I did not bring my crystal ball to work today. Could the honourable gentleman place his question on notice.

540 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr STEELE

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

ANSWER

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

541 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr ROBERTSON

Having regard to the apparently excellent results he has had with the Commonwealth Department of Education, could he advise if he has had any success in reinstating the high school theatrette in the Dripstone High School?

ANSWER

I had hoped to have some definitive news for the honourable member on this question - she is properly concerned and she knows that I am concerned about it. I had hoped to be able to answer the question properly in the very near future. I can assure her that I appreciate her efforts to get this theatre reinstated. Let me make the distinction between the level of cooperation between myself and the NT division, and myself and the Commonwealth Treasury.

542 Mr DONDAS to Mr STEELE

I preface my question by saying that I have received a number of complaints regarding the method in which barramundi fishing licences are being issued. Have there been any barramundi licences issued recently and what is the criteria for obtaining a barramundi fishing licence?

ANSWER

I understand that something like 20 applications have been received for fishing licences in recent weeks and that five people were selected for the issue of those licences. The criteria is that the applicant must have official, qualified fishing experience; that the applicant must have a certain amount of capital investment and must have resided in the Northern Territory over a period of time. The points system that has evolved from discussions with the industry and the Fisheries Branch is a fair one although maybe it could be improved like most of these systems.

543 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it true that the honourable member has received a personal communication from the private secretary of the honourable executive member for Finance and Planning, on that honourable member's headed paper, asking for assistance from the honourable member for that private secretary to obtain a licence to keep in his personal possession Northern rosella and honeyeater? Is it true that this person had previously been refused a licence by the department and, if this is true, does the honourable member intend to accede to his request?

ANSWER

I ask that the question be put on notice.

544 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr ROBERTSON

Because of the recent problems regarding the floor space or area in the recent extensions to the pre-school at Nhulunbuy, can the honourable executive member assure me that, in future planning, pre-schools will be designed for double floor space, rather than building pre-schools with larger area than single units but which do not meet the requirements or the criteria for double space units?

ANSWER

I am at something of a loss to follow exactly what the honourable member is getting at. I have no doubt that it is an area he has made a very close study of. I would be more than happy to talk with him about it after the House rises.

545 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

Could the honourable executive member advise me when the retiling of the waiting areas and surgery at the Nightcliff Dental Clinic will be completed?

ANSWER

I do not know when the tiling in this community health centre is going to be completed. I am aware that is has been a matter of concern and that the Department of Construction let the contract on 3 May for this work to be done.

546 Mr PERKINS to Mr ROBERTSON

Will he advise whether he has considered the legal opinion of the NT Department of Law in relation to the Alice Springs Corporation in the letting of the building contract to the Sicoma Company and, if so, will he now undertake to table the full details of that legal opinion to clear the name of Alderman Marinucci, and will he also undertake to review the Local Government Ordinance as a matter of urgency to eliminate the present deficiencies as highlighted by the Marinucci affair?

ANSWER

In answer to the question, the first observation I might make is that he is a fine gentleman to be talking about clearing the names of people. The fact is that it is the honourable gentleman opposite who has set out in a deliberate campaign to smear that man's character...

Mr Perkins: Answer the question.

Mr ROBERTSON: In answer to the question, Mr Speaker, under no circumstances would I table or make public any opinion of the Crown Law Office as long as that honourable gentleman over there maintains his threat, as I said in this place earlier, to find a stooge to go to court and to further attempt to smear the name of that alderman.

547 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

In view of the recent decision on a site for the Museum and Art Gallery complex and a promise of the Majority Leader in this Assembly about six months ago that a decision would be made soon on a site for the performing arts complex, can the honourable member tell us if a site has been chosen for a performing arts complex?

ANSWER

The answer to that question is no.

554 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

There has been an announcement through the press that the federal government and the Northern Land Council have agreed to this Assembly's participation in the management of Kakadu National Park. Could the honourable Majority Leader make a statement to the House outlining our degree of participation?

ANSWER

It will not be a very long statement, Mr Speaker. The degree of participation of the Legislative Assembly, or rather the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission which is, of course, established under local legislation, in the management or control of the Kakadu National Park will be very limited indeed. There will be provision for a degree of voluntary consultation - shall I call it - on the part of the federal Director of Parks and Wildlife with the Territory commission. A Territory permanent head will be able to be seconded to the coordinating committee, as I understand it is to be called, to be established by the federal government representing different departmental interests in the national park, and of course, it is interesting to note that all these federal departments now seem to have considerable interest in the Kakadu National Park and are moving in in a big way just at the time when responsible self-government, which was supposed to have meant Territory control, is being devolved on the Legislative Assembly. There is one, I think, important concession that we have gained and that is that the Territory Director of Parks and Wildlife can, if he considers there is any breach of the environmental provisions going on within the Park, apply to the Supreme Court on behalf of the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission. I think perhaps that is the most significant concession that was granted.

I can only say this, that the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission has a declared policy which was, I believe, the first motion it adopted at its first meeting, that there should be no mining on national parks and it is remarkable to see that the Australian Labor Party whose policies I thought accorded with that policy - which, of course, is not one of the policies of the federal Parks and Wildlife Service because that service is a creature of the federal government which is very anxious, together with the Northern Land Council, to see mining go ahead there - it is remarkable to see that the Australian Labor Party is going to support in the Senate the government's legislation to mine uranium and to establish these other particular bodies.

555 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can he indicate, when a plan of management is drawn up for the Kakadu National Park, if officers of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission will have charge of enforcement in the area and, if not, to what degree may they participate?

ANSWER

If and when a plan of management is prepared, Territory officers will only have such authority in the park as may be given to them by the federal Director of Parks and Wildlife. It is possible, I understand, that some of them may be seconded to the federal Parks and Wildlife Service if that is the desire of the federal director. To date in our dealings with the federal director we have not noticed any desire on his part to have very much to do with Territory Parks and Wildlife officials. It will not have escaped the notice of honourable members that the federal Director of Parks and Wildlife is a member of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission. He has however, I understand, only availed himself of the opportunity

of attending one of the four Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission meetings since he has been a member of that commission.

556 Mr HARRIS to Mr ROBERTSON

Could he please tell me if any decision has been made to upgrade the present Darwin Public Library?

ANSWER

Members will be aware that work is to commence on the new Casuarina Public Library. Of course, this brings into question the whole future of the previous Darwin library. It is proposed to examine very thoroughly the requirements of library services for the city of Darwin and more particularly for the entire Northern Territory. The inference there, of course, is the provision for the Northern Territory of a state-type library service. This study is now being undertaken. We are seeking the assistance of Dr Chandler from the Australian National Library Service in Canberra who very generously has offered his services to the Northern Territory free of charge. The only expenditure which the Northern Territory will face will be for his accommodation and travel. We anticipate his report will be available very shortly after he visits us and based upon that information and based upon other considerations, the future of a state-type library service will be determined.

557 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

Could the executive member give an assurance that the Rapid Creek school will receive top priority in the 28-week program to up-grade electricity reticulation in the Rapid Creek area?

ANSWER

This is the first time this matter has come to my attention. I feel it would be unwise of me to give an undertaking here without investigating the facts, so I cannot give the assurance that the honourable member seeks.

558 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

This question is being asked on behalf of the member for Elsey. Can he advise what steps are being taken to provide job opportunities for local youths at Northern Territory meatworks?

ANSWER

In reply to your question, Sir, I understand that you yourself have taken the initiative on this and talked to representatives of the meatworks industry yourself. Certainly, it would be our wish that local people be recruited and trained in meatworks operations. One of my senior people will ask him to call in and pass this particular message on to the meatworks management.

559 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr STEELE

Can he tell us if and when traffic lights will be installed in front of the Darwin High School?

ANSWER

I mentioned before my hearing but I am a bit concerned about the honour-

able member's eyesight because, when I come to work every morning, I am sure there is a post there that looks like the commencement of a traffic light at the pedestrian crossing.

560 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr STEELE

Has he observed that there is no indication of height clearance on the Bagot Road overpass? Could he undertake to find out the reason why this has not been indicated and will he rectify the matter?

ANSWER

I did not hear the question and would ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

561 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr TUXWORTH

Does the Department of Health have any plans for health facilities at Peppimenarti?

ANSWER

In September-October last year, the Department of Health was preparing to put in installations for the health sister and the health clinic at Peppimenarti. However, they were overtaken by the wet. They were not able to procure, in the short time available to them, the demountable units that they wanted and get them into Peppimenarti before the wet started. The department has effectively lost six months at this stage in supplying these facilities which are sorely needed at Peppimenarti. When I was at Peppimenarti last week, the matter was raised again with me by the council and they expressed their concern that the buildings proposed for installation in the Peppimenarti settlement were, in fact, too big to be brought along the bush road from Daly River to Peppimenarti and they asked what was going to be done about it. I have asked that the department look at this and give me advice as to whether the buildings are too big to be moved into Peppimenarti by truck. If they are too big, then we would have no option but to use a knock-down, panel-type building that can be carried in by truck and erected in sections.

562 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

When will a start be made on the compilation of Northern Territory statistics on, firstly, work accident and, secondly, the loss ratio of NT workmen's compensation insurance?

ANSWER

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

563 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can he inform us whether it is intended by the Northern Territory executive to establish, some time after 1 July this year, a government printing establishment to be independent of the Commonwealth government printer?

ANSWER

I understand the government printer's establishment will be transferred to the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly's control as at 1 July. I understand the new building being established on the Stuart Highway near Ross Smith Avenue will be transferred to the Legislative Assembly,

together with all the staff and all the other assets of the government printer. It looks as though we will have a government printer who is independent of the Commonwealth's control.

This question gives me a chance to express my appreciation and that of all members of the Northern Territory executive and, I think all members of this House, for the hard work the government printer and his staff have put into preparing the massive amount of legislation that has been introduced at this session. Obviously, self-government would not have been possible without the hard work and great degree of cooperation received by this Assembly, and by the executive members in particular, from the government printer and his people.

564 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr EVERINGHAM

Could he tell me when the fountain near the police headquarters will be repaired and operating again?

ANSWER

I cannot tell the honourable member when the fountain will be repaired and running again. I will ask the Police Commissioner, whose responsibility I believe the fountain would be, to attempt to have it repaired and running again as soon as possible.

565 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

What laboratory facilities are available in the Northern Territory for processing samples from the uranium province taken by government agencies for radiation and pollution control?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory, and in fact all the states in Australia, are currently using the facilities of the Australian Radiation Research Laboratories in Melbourne. This laboratory is run conjointly by the Department of Health and the Australian Atomic Energy Commission.

566 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

Has he received a report from the government departments inquiring into home-maker services? If he has, can he tell us what its recommendations were and whether he will be implementing them?

ANSWER

I thank the honourable member for that question. I was unaware that she had come across the information - the block 2 sieve again. The study of home-maker services for the entire Northern Territory is something that has exercised our attention for quite some time. A long series of negotiations have taken place between the Housing Commission, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, the Department of Social Security and my department. We have now pretty well finalised the mechanism by which that very useful and needed service in the Northern Territory will be organised. I would undertake to make a detailed statement during the course of the June sittings on our proposals.

567 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

What role will the electoral office have in the Chief Secretary's Department after 1 July 1978? Does he envisage that the Australian Electoral

Office will still conduct Territory elections or will we adopt the Western Australian model of separate electoral enrolment for federal and state elections?

ANSWER

The role of the electoral office will be to conduct Territory elections. I have not come to any final decision in relation to the latter part of his question which I think related to whether there would be separate Territory electoral rolls and a separate electoral office mechanism. Without committing myself at this stage, because I think the matter should be give some more thought than I have been able to give it at this stage and I must confess that it comes about last on the list of priorities, I would think the Northern Territory electoral officer - and I believe there should be a Northern Territory electoral officer who should be a permanent official attached to my department - should cooperate, as far as possible, with the Australian Electoral Office and I would think that, if we could share the rolls then that would be well and good. I do not see any particular reason for having separate rolls.

568 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr PERRON

When might I expect a reply to my question 223 which has been on the notice paper since 28 February 1978?

ANSWER

As I have explained to this House I think twice during these sittings, questions that are placed on notice normally go to the department for answering before they come to executive members for final approval and release. Sometimes questions are fed into the department and we do not know about them. I am not aware of the question the honourable member refers to or what that particular question is about, so I am unable to give her an answer.

569 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is the Majority Leader aware of the boating accident this week, approximately 100 kilometres from Gove, in which several persons were missing? Can the Majority Leader tell me if a decision will be made very soon to base a police boat at Gove, similar to the Darwin-based boat, Norlaw?

ANSWER

I heard of the tragic accident at sea near the Marchinbar Islands where, I think, Mr Fitzgerald and two of his sons have been presumed lost. I am sure the honourable member for Nhulunbuy will tender my sympathies to the unfortunate widow who has in one stroke been deprived of three members of her family and, I think, left with only one son. The actual situation is, however, that even had there been a police boat at Nhulunbuy, I do not really see how it could have saved these people who were apparently sucked down in a whirlpool.

There is need, though, for a better police boat for Gove. There is now only a 16 or 19-foot aluminum boat there. A submission did come before the executive which I recall earlier this year for a number of police boats and that submission contained estimates of cost. These estimates of cost have been placed in our budgetry estimates and I would hope that some start can be made on the commissioning of a further series of police boats later this year.

570 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr ROBERTSON

In his capacity as manager of government business in this House, did he hear a comment by the honourable member for Arnhem at a meeting of the Kakadu Society last night which might have been seen by people present as bringing this Assembly into public ridicule?

ANSWER

Yes, Mr Speaker, I did hear such a comment much to my amazement last night. My recollection of the comment was, "This meeting is as big a shambles as the Legislative Assembly". Having regard to the nature of that meeting and the appalling manner in which it was run, and having regard to the guffaws and clapping and cheers that followed the honourable member's comment, and having regard also to the fact that several members who were present complained to me this morning, I am contemplating putting it in writing and referring it to you, Mr Speaker, for your judgment as to whether or not it should be referred to the Privileges Committee.

Mr COLLINS: Mr Speaker, could I ask you, Sir, for your advice as to how it is possible for me to answer that statement. I do confess, Mr Speaker, I am not aware how it is possible and ask your advice on the subject.

Mr SPEAKER: I will see what the complaint is and let you know.

Mr COLLINS: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

489 Mr TUXWORTH (Resources and Health) (by leave): The honourable member for Port Darwin asked the other day whether I could present the position in relation to the repairs to the industrial staff amenities building at the Darwin Hospital. The answer to the honourable member's question, Mr Speaker, is that tenders have been called for the work by the Department of Construction. These tenders will close on 11 May 1978 and it is expected that the work will be completed about two months after the letting of the contract.

536 The honourable member for Fannie Bay asked a question concerning the Harry Chan Home. The answer I have from the department in relation to this question is as follows: in conjunction with the Department of Construction, the design for the Harry Chan Home has been completed and a site is available. The project has had to be deferred because of economic considerations and its present status is that it is included in this department's forward estimates for construction in the 1981-82 financial year.

Mr Speaker, I have some further questions which I would like to answer now, asked of me, I believe, by the honourable member for Arnhem.

518 The first question was: does the executive intend to allow buffalo in Kakadu National Park or has the previous established buffalo eradication program been extended to the whole park? The reply I have, Mr Speaker, from the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission is as follows: The general policy is that feral animals, including buffaloes, should not remain in the Kakadu National Park. The previously established eradication program was conducted only in the Alligator Rivers and Woolwonga wildlife sanctuaries. This has been extended to the park areas south of the Arnhem Highway. The area north of the Arnhem Highway, at present comprises two pastoral leases and the CSIRO study area and vacant crown lands. Public tenders for the removal of buffalo were called for these

crown land areas during 1976-77 and 1977-78.

503 I also had a further question, Mr Speaker, relating to access within the proposed Kakadu National Park, including details on which areas are accessible. The Parks and Wildlife Commission has provided me with the following reply: A major proportion of stage 1 of the proposed Kakadu National Park is comprised of the Woolwonga and Alligator Rivers wildlife sanctuaries. Visitors to these sanctuaries requires entry permits; otherwise access is illegal. It is the intention of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission to continue to manage these areas as wildlife sanctuaries until the Kakadu National Parks has been declared and a formal management plan prepared for the park.

At a recent meeting of the commission, the following guidelines concerning access to the area were adopted:

1. In Woolwonga, access is restricted except for approved scientific study. However fishermen will continue to be permitted access to the Nourlangie camp area.

2. Access to the Alligator Rivers sanctuary during the wet season is prohibited but during the dry season access to selected areas will be permitted.

3. Nourlangie Rock - day visitation only allowed; no overnight camping in the vicinity of Nourlangie Rock or Little Nourlangie Rock. Camping will be permitted in the Muirella Park area.

4. Access to Deaf Adder Creek will not be permitted beyond camp 3 at the gorge entrance.

5. Access to Jim Jim Falls, Twin Falls and Graveside Gorge will be permitted. This will be restricted to 4-wheel-drive vehicles and walkers.

6. Access to Lightning Dreaming and Cannon Hill beyond Obiri Rock is restricted to people engaged on bona fide scientific studies.

7. Access to Mount Brockman is prohibited but access will be permitted to Radon Creek within daylight hours.

8. Access to all areas will be controlled by permit and will depend on weather and environmental conditions.

Permits may be obtained in Darwin or at the Patonga and Nourlangie ranger stations in the area.

Mr Speaker, the above provisions are subject to confirmation or amendment by the Northern Land Council and only represent interim controls until a detailed plan of management of the park has been prepared.

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NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Second Assembly

Parliamentary Record

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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 Aboriginalorganisations?

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 Aboriginals 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

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 mechnical 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?

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.

Aboriginal community or mission	Population	Employed
Amoonguna	152	36
Angurugu	680	81
Areyonga	363	64
Bagot	405	52
Bathurst Island (Nguiu)	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 (Warruwi)	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:

Settlement	No.
Delissaville	10
Docker River	37
Elcho Island	5
Maningrida	2
Numbulwar	1
Nurkurr	29
Oenpelli	4
Papunya	77
Wave Hill	1
Yuendumu	35
	201

Mission	No.
Bathurst Island	7
Daly River	10
Goulburn Island	1
Garden Point	4
Hermannsburg	87
Santa Teresa	12
	121

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.

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?

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	$54,948

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

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

3. Cost per metre

Direct cost	$81	$30
Indirect cost	$18	$15
	$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:

Range	No. of consumers
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

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:

Range	No. of consumers
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,

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 surrended 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 Aboriginals 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 Aboriginals. 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 hyptus, sida, flannel weed, cassia weed and other

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
	$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 Wollogorang Station? Does he propose to legalise cannabis and will he send Mr Rex Jettner to investigate the feasibility of growing cannabis at Wollogorang?

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 Wollogorang 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 presentation of 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 Aboriginals 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 Aboriginals 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 Nancar 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. Incidently, 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 02, 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 Aboriginals, 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 rearrangements 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 anaethetist services in the Territory, can he tell me what is the situation regarding anaethetist 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 anaethesia, 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 predominent 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 forerunner 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 Nightcliff. 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 works 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 48¢ 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 reapply; 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 sufficent 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 answers 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.

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PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

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QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 1 AUGUST 1978

FROM 28 FEBRUARY 1978

212 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What investigations have been made to date into the purchase of Willeroo-Scott Creek by the Northern Territory executive?

2. Has any money been spent in travel or otherwise to investigate the proposed purchase?

3. If money has been spent on travel or otherwise, on what authority was the money spent?

FROM 7 MARCH 1978

253 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

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

FROM 2 MAY 1978

365 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

(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 Chief Minister supply me with a copy of the correspondence giving the undertaking?

FROM 9 MAY 1978

484 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

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?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 1 AUGUST 1978

FROM 7 JUNE 1978

548 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

549 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

550 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Does the Minister for Industrial Development 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 MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

552 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is he aware that another party was interested in purchasing the NADC properties around November-December 1977?

2. Did the Chief Minister 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 MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

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

572 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What is the estimated value of the Scott Creek-Willeroo project crop which was used as a lien on a loan?

2. Have the crops yet been harvested and, if not, when will they be harvested?

575 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

576 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

577 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

578 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

579 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Why was legislation not introduced into the Assembly in February to establish a statutory authority to purchase the Willeroo-Scott Creek complex?

2. Does the Northern Territory executive still intend to purchase the Willeroo-Scott Creek properties?

580 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

582 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

583 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. When did the consulting firm AACM begin its investigations into the feasibility of the purchase of the Willeroo complex?

2. Has this firm actually completed its investigations and how much will it be paid for its investigations?

584 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

585 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

586 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

587 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

589 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

590 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

591 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

592 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

593 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

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

594 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

595 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

596 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

597 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

598 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

599 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Did the chairman of the Primary Producers Board have written authorisation

from the receiver or the secured creditors of NADC to buy and sell assets on the Willeroo-Scott Creek properties?

605 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

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 CHIEF MINISTER

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

607 Mr PERKINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Is it a fact that children who are the products 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?

610 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

611 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

612 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. When did the consulting firm AACM begin its investigations into the feasibility of the purchase of the Willeroo-Scott Creek complex?

2. Has this firm completed its investigations?

3. How much will this firm be paid for its investigations?

614 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY

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?

618 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Majority Party executive considered the establishment of a central

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

FROM 13 JUNE 1978

710 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

711 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

712 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

FROM 1 AUGUST 1978

742 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

758 Mr OLIVER to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Are any means tests applicable to Aboriginal Legal Aid Service?

795 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

1. How many small businesses in the Northern Territory became bankrupt, made arrangements with creditors or were liquidated during (a) the years (i) 1975-76 and (ii) 1976-77 and (b) the periods (i) 1 July 1977 to 31 December 1977 and (ii) 1 January 1978 to date?
2. How many taxpayers in the Northern Territory defined as essentially deriving their income from farming became bankrupt or made arrangements with creditors during the same years and periods?
3. How many Northern Territory businesses essentially involved in farming became bankrupt or made arrangements with creditors during the same years and periods?

817 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is he aware that in an order made on 9 June 1978 by Mr McGregor SM at the Katherine Court of Summary Jurisdiction the following was found:
   (a) that a Sergeant R.W. Fields, the police prosecutor, was found to be saying things on oath which were not true;
   (b) that Sergeant Fields was found to be not telling the truth regarding his denial that he has never used derogatory terms about Aboriginals since his joining the NT Police Force;

(c) that, further, Sergeant Fields admitted pushing a Mr James Ryan, an Aboriginal, around in the charge room, and that he hit Mr Ryan in the head three or four times with a clenched fist?

2. Is he further aware that:

(a) Mr Ryan was taken into custody at the time as a person who was so drunk as to be incapable of looking after his own welfare;

(b) Mr Ryan is a pensioner who was repatriated from Korea with haemorrhagic fever and has been in receipt of a military pension ever since;

(c) Sergeant Fields admitted that he offered no medical assistance even though Mr Ryan was bleeding from the face; and

(d) Mr Ryan was convicted without penalty in the case?

3. What action does he propose to take where persons taken into custody are assaulted or intimidated in some way by some police?

4. What action does he propose to take to improve the attitude of some police officers who are known to refer to Aboriginal persons in derogatory terms in the course of their duties?

5. Will he undertake to investigate this incident involving Sergeant Fields and Mr Ryan, with a view to taking remedial measures and to preventing any further such incidents?

823 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER FOR HEALTH

What arrangement will be made for pupils of schools which do not have dental therapy units to benefit from the provision of those facilities in new schools?

826 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER FOR LANDS AND HOUSING

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

827 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER FOR LANDS AND HOUSING

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

(a) implement any or all of the report's 9 major recommendations on the NT forestry program;

(b) form a house committee to study the implications of the report for the NT?

828 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Minister for Primary Industry has said that $100,000 will go to the Northern Territory for virology laboratory equipment.

1. Is this money offered on a dollar-for-dollar basis to the Northern Territory?

2. Has it in effect been offered?

3. If it is offered will it be accepted on a dollar-for-dollar basis, or otherwise on what basis?

830 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

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

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

831 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Since March 1973, on which occasions were requests made by the Police Commissioner for additional police, how many were requested on each occasion and how many were approved on each occasion?

2. What will be the establishment number of police officers on 1 July 1978?

3. How many police officers are currently employed?

836 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER FOR LANDS AND HOUSING

Has the study of arterial roads in Darwin, to which he referred in answer to question 276 of 2 March 1978, been completed and, if so, what recommendations have been made in respect of -

(a) the Palmerston arterial road; and

(b) the Frances Bay arterial road?

837 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER FOR HEALTH

1. How many positions for dentists exist at the Katherine Dental Clinic?

2. How many dentists were employed at the Katherine Dental Clinic on 1 July 1978?

3. What is the waiting time for appointments at the Katherine Dental Clinic?

4. How many dentists were employed at the Katherine Dental Clinic on 1 July 1977?

5. Has there been any increase or decrease in the waiting time for appointments at the Katherine Dental Clinic since 1 July 1977?

838 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER FOR LANDS AND HOUSING

1. Has an occupation licence been issued to those persons carrying on the business known as Jet Ski Hire at Mindil Beach, Darwin?

2. If not, have those persons any right to occupy that land for the purpose of carrying on a business?

3. Has permission been granted for Jet Ski Hire to erect a structure at Mindil Beach, Darwin ?

4. What precautions have been taken to ensure that swimmers are not

injured by jet skis?

840 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

1. What are the names of the three Centralian cattlemen who received between them $378,000 in loans from the Northern Territory government?

2. How much did each of the cattlemen receive and at what initial interest rate?

3. How much money is available under the rural adjustment scheme?

841 Mr ISAACS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

What was the extent of non-business insolvency in the Northern Territory for the years 1975-76, 1976-77 and 1977-78?

842 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

Who paid the air fares and/or travel allowances of government members, not being office holders, who travelled to Katherine on or about 21 July 1978?

843 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER FOR HEALTH

1. What are the prescribed requirements that determine eligibility for a Northern Territory pastoral property to attract a nursing subsidy from the Department of Health?

2. How many pastoral properties received such a subsidy in the 1977-78 financial year, what are the names of the pastoral properties concerned, the names of the nursing sisters associated with those pastoral properties and the specified amounts of nursing subsidy paid to those individual pastoral properties?

191 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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?

ANSWER

The arrangements for the provision of access centres are still in course of investigation and an announcement about the Majority Party's intentions will be made as soon as these have been completed.

223 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER FOR LANDS AND HOUSING

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?

ANSWER

The proposed planning scheme was on exhibition until 31 March 1978.

(a) A total of 298 objections were received. One objection was withdrawn before 31 March. A number of objections covered a number of parcels of land and/or aspects of the schedule.

(b)

Town of	Lodged but not yet approved	Approved
Darwin	6	3
Nightcliff	2	4
Sanderson	Nil	Nil
Hundred of Bagot	Nil	Nil
	8	7

303 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In the 1976-1977 financial year, what was the amount of financial assistance provided by the Majority Party government to each Northern Territory amateur sporting body?

ANSWER

The Majority Party assumed responsibility for sport and recreation on 1 January 1977. The Commonwealth government had by this time decided on the allocation of funds to sporting and cultural groups for the whole financial year, and disbursement of these funds was in process. The Majority Party did not alter the allocations decided upon by the Commonwealth.

In the 1977-1978 financial year the Majority Party has made the following appropriation for the direct furtherance of sport in the Northern Territory.

Grants to trustees of reserves and community grants

Darwin Junior Rugby Club	$ 4,000
Northern Territory Hockey Association	$ 2,500
Gove Little Athletics Association	$ 400
Nhulunbuy Town Oval (Construction)	$10,000
Purkiss Reserve, Tennant Creek	$58,200
Katherine Racecourse and Recreation Reserve (equestrian sports)	$29,700
Katherine Soccer Reserve	$27,600
Blatherskite Park, Alice Springs	$ 8,800
Batchelor Bowling Green (Maintenance, etc.)	$ 3,000
Nhulunbuy Play Group	$ 200
Northern Territory Baseball League	$ 2,100
Northern Territory Secondary School Sports	$ 1,000
Northern Territory Primary School Amateur Sports	$ 1,000
Northern Territory Women's Soccer Association	$ 1,000
Northern Territory Tennis Association	$ 250
Northern Territory Little Athletics Association	$ 500
Northern Territory Football League Incorporated	$ 250
Tennant Creek Cricket Club	$ 250
Northern Territory Rugby Union	$ 250
Nhulunbuy Police and Citizens Youth Club	$ 1,000
Moil Little Athletics Association	$ 250
Northern Territory Yachting Association	$ 250
Casuarina Girl Guides Association	$ 250
	$152,850

Betting control funds

Alice Springs Little Athletics	$ 500
Tennant Creek Baseball Association	$ 1,000
Katherine Little Athletics	$ 1,000
Nightcliff Amateur Swimming Club	$ 500
NT Netball Association	$ 2,000
Tennant Creek Little Athletics	$ 1,000
Darwin Horse and Pony Club	$ 500
Tennant Creek Saddle Horse Club	$ 500
YMCA Youth Clubs	$ 500
Nhulunbuy Police and Citizens Youth Club	$ 500
Darwin Marching Girls	$ 500

335 Mr PERKINS to TREASURER

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?

ANSWER

Yes.

Functions transferred are as follows:

Water and sewerage supply, design/construction/maintenance and billing
Road, design/construction and maintenance
Building, design/construction and maintenance

Supply
Plant and equipment
Area management, Alice Springs)
Area management, Katherine) covering all above functions
Area management, Tennant Creek)
Electricity, supply and distribution
Housing, design and maintenance.

384 Mrs O'NEIL to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

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

ANSWER

The Sheriff of the Supreme Court has advised that 178 women have been exempted from jury service under sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 11A.

Under sub-section (3) a total of 145 women have been exempted since 1 January 1976. Figures prior to that date are difficult to obtain due to the method of record keeping.

386 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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?

ANSWER

1. To date no clinical signs of blue tongue have been observed in free range cattle, sheep, goats or buffaloes in the Territory. The Australian government publication "Review of Australian Quarantine Arrangements" describes the symptoms of blue tongue as -
"a viral disease of sheep, cattle and goats. However cattle tend to be carriers of the disease showing no clinical symptoms. The symptoms of blue tongue are very easily confused with a number of 'normal' disease conditions which affect livestock in practically every country. In broad terms, there is a degeneration of the mucous membrane of the mouth, tongue, eyes and a considerable metabolic disturbance. There may be a significant temperature rise and a possible recurrent viremia".
2. None.
3. None.
4. and 5. The virus is transmitted only by infected insects of the biting midge family, several species of which are common in the Territory. It cannot be transmitted in meat or by contact between animals. Eradication is therefore extremely difficult and has not been considered seriously. The policy determined by the Australian Agricultural Council is one for containment. The Australian government has accepted that some financial burdens on producers exist because of live export market losses and testing requirements and has announced an offer of a scheme of financial assistance to affected producers; that offer has been accepted by my government.

387 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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 land holders?

ANSWER

1. Australian Agricultural Council at its 103rd meeting in January 1978 accepted the recommendation of Standing Committee on Agriculture for the continuance of the Commonwealth Extension Services Grants Scheme whereby the Commonwealth provides special grants to the states for agricultural extension and regional research. The council also endorsed the development of extension and regional research activities in the Northern Territory consistent with the services of the states.

   I understand that federal Cabinet has agreed in principle to the continuation of the scheme and that the level of funding will be considered in the budget context.

   The Northern Territory has prepared papers detailing programs to be conducted under the scheme together with cost estimates. The NT executive expects to be discussing financial arrangements for "special grants", of which the CESG is one example, with the Commonwealth in the near future.

2. Other sources of finance that could be available to the branch for research and developmental purposes include:

   (a) Rural Industry Research Funds -
   Australian Meat Research Committee
   Oilseeds Research Committee
   Australian Chicken Meat Research Committee
   Pig Industry Research Committee
   Poultry Research (Eggs) Committee

   (b) Supplementary government funds -
   Special research grants

   (c) Rural Credits Development Fund (Reserve Bank)

   (d) Private industry contributions.

   The Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch is conducting animal nutrition experiments at Berrimah partially funded by the Australian Meat Research Committee grants and has recently made application to the Rural Credits Development Fund for grants to advance some aspects of horticultural research in the NT.

571 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. The design of the Department of the Northern Territory's accounting system does not provide for the positive identification of expenditure incurred on individual experiment farms/stations.
3. The station was formally established in 1968 through a favourable sub-lease with Gunn Rural Enterprises. It followed some 6 years of small plot experiments, through informal agreements on Tipperary station.
4. Nothing has so far prevented the extension of the sub-lease although receivership has complicated the negotiations. The matter is expected shortly to be successfully finalised.

573 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

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 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 the NT school curriculum be produced and transmitted in the Northern 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 video-taped 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 short-wave 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?

ANSWER

As asked, I have obtained answers to the questions from the ABC. Their answers to the questions are, seriatim:

(a) Yes.

(b) The current level of local radio and television output in news, public affairs, rural and sporting programs will be maintained and, as funds become available for the provision of additional staff and resources, extended.

(c) Not until additional facilities are available.

(d) No.

(e) Again, the scope and frequency of locally-produced rural television programs will be extended as facilities become available.

(f) Education programs suitable to the Northern Territory curriculum are currently being transmitted by both ABC radio and television stations in the Northern Territory. The provision of locally-produced programs is dependent upon the appropriation of additional funds to the ABC.

(g) The target completion date for the colourisation of the Darwin television studio and the mobile outside broadcast van is September 1978.

(h) Yes.

(i) The ABC has no plans to produce Divine Service for television in the Northern Territory in the foreseeable future, but broadcasts of Divine Service on radio are contemplated. From time to time national documentary programs such as 'A Big Country' and 'In the Wild' will be filmed in the Northern Territory.

(j) Live coverages of many major national and international sporting events are currently being transmitted by ABC television in the Northern Territory on the same basis as they are transmitted in all states. These will continue. The recording and replaying of local sporting events will also continue and be extended wherever possible.

(k) See (1).

(l) The establishment of a second ABC radio network in the Northern Territory and new radio transmitters is a matter for government decision. The ABC is not responsible for the provision of new transmission facilities. The provision of a second radio network in the Northern Territory is, however, regarded by the ABC as a matter of high priority.

(m) Yes.

(n) This question will be directed to the Minister for Post and Telecommunications.

(o) The ABC recognises the changes currently taking place in the Northern Territory and the growing importance of Darwin as the centre of Territory affairs. The ABC will continue to give the development and the extension of its operations in Darwin the highest possible priority consistent with the availability of funds, staff and other resources.

588 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

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?

ANSWER

Stage I of the sealing of the road between the Stuart Highway and Uluru National Park has been included in the government's 1978-1979 works proposals. Stage I would provide a sealed road from the Stuart Highway to the Angas Downs turn-off. Subsequent stages are proposed and it is anticipated that the road would be sealed to Uluru National Park by December 1981.

600 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

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 roads development program?

ANSWER

Stage I of the sealing of the road between the Stuart Highway and Yuendumu has been included in the Government's 1978-1979 works proposals. Stage I would provide a sealed road from the Stuart Highway to near the Papunya turn-off. Subsequent stages are proposed and it is anticipated that the road would be sealed to Yuendumu by December 1982.

601 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

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?

ANSWER

There have recently been some improvements to the road between the Alice Springs airport and Santa Teresa. These improvements included some re-alignment and gravelling. A further stage of development of the road is proposed for 1979-1980. This would be for further re-alignments and gravelling. There are no firm proposals for sealing the road at this stage.

602 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

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?

ANSWER

The government has included the sealing of the road between Jay Creek and Hermannsburg in its rural road development program. It is proposed the item will be included in the 1979-1980 works proposals, with an anticipated completion of November 1981. There are no firm proposals to seal the road between Hermannsburg and Areyonga at this stage.

603 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

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 Haasts Bluff Aboriginal community and, if so, whether such a project will be included in the NT executive's proposed rural roads development program?

ANSWER

The sealing of the road between Jay Creek and Glen Helen has been included in the government's 1978-1979 works proposals. It is anticipated the work will be completed by October 1980. There are no firm proposals to seal the road between Glen Helen and Haasts Bluff at this stage.

609 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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 representations will be made by the CLP executive to the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation concerning the freeze on meat exports recently announced?

ANSWER

1. The honourable member may be assured that when action is required of this government to assist, protect or develop primary industries in the Territory it will so act. So far as the increased Japanese meat import quota is concerned, particularly as it relates to the Alice Springs abattoir, no action was required. Of the 10,000 tonnes announced increase, Australia's share based upon traditional import allocations and subject to variation is approximately 8,000 tonnes. The additional quota is for specific cuts from lot fed cattle only and is subject to certification by the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation that the consigned beef is from this source. For reasons that should be obvious, grain feeding of cattle is not practised in the Territory. Moreover, the increases are being held against the Special Hotels quota and therefore are not subject to allocation among abattoirs along general quota distribution lines.
2. As the proposed freeze on beef imported into the USA from Australia did not eventuate, the question does not arise.

613 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER FOR HEALTH

1. Is it true that the honourable minister has had a personal communication from the personal secretary to the Treasurer, on the honourable minister'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 minister intend to accede to his request?

ANSWER

1. A letter was received by me and it requested my intervention in obtaining answers to queries relating to the obtaining of a licence to keep birds as described.
2. The person concerned had previously been refused a permit to import aviary bred birds of these species from South Australia.

3. Yes, I did accede to his request and provided the information sought in the letter. I did not intervene in granting a licence nor was this request in the letter.

617 Mr VALE to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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 6 years ago regarding the dingoes actual depredations on cattle, are these eradication programs really necessary at this time and, if so, why?

ANSWER

1. No attempt is being made to eradicate the dingo. Rather the purpose is to control excess numbers when high populations of dingoes on pastoral lands cause stock losses.
2. Dingoes occur throughout all pastoral areas, but particular attention is being given to control on the Barkly Tablelands.
3. Approximately $10,000 was available this year for dingo control and a similar figure provided for next year. Most of these funds go towards dingo scalp bonus payment. Remaining funds support the work of government officers. It is not possible to accurately estimate the funds needed to meet scalp bonus payments. It should be emphasised that the major responsibility for dingo control rests with the landholder.
4. and 5. Dingoes are shot, trapped or poisoned. Sodium fluoroacetate is the poison used by government operators. This is a very effective poison for dingoes and, when properly used, relatively selective. However, because it can also cause a hazard to people and non-target animals, this poison is only handled by trained staff and not available to private persons. Most of the cost of the aerial 1080 baiting programs is borne by the landholders.
6. As far as can be ascertained, no standard has been set by WHO.
7. Although CSIRO studies did indicate that cattle formed a very minor component of the dingo diet, dingoes do cause stock injuries and calf losses. Depending upon the viability of the cattle industry these losses will obviously vary in economic effect. However, the fact that some cattlemen, even with a depressed industry, are prepared to shoulder most of the costs associated with dingo control, indicates that they consider expenditure on dingo control necessary.

620 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What has the total amount of premium income received by Northern Territory workmen's compensation insurers in the years 1974-1975, 1975-1976 and 1976-1977?

ANSWER

1974-1975	$ 4,642,072.29;
1975-1976	$ 6,801,800.47; and
1976-1977	$ 7,514,050.48.

622 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR LANDS AND HOUSING

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?

ANSWER

1. All housing occupied by APS staff who have been or will be transferred to the NTPS will be transferred to the NT government on 1 July 1978, and vested in the NT Housing Commission.
2. and 3. To ensure the NTPS housing policy is developed with joint management and staff inputs, the Public Service Commissioner has requested the Public Service Consultative Council to examine the specific housing policies that could be applicable to the NTPS.

   Until such time as recommendations have been made by means of this consultative process and accepted by the executive it would be inappropriate to give an answer which might prove misleading.

623 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

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 Fires 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?

ANSWER

1. Provision has been made for a new fire station at Berrimah in the draft three year forward capital works program. A final decision on construction will not be made until studies now in progress have been completed.
2. Should the proposed Berrimah Fire Station be built it is possible that the staff of the Winnellie Fire Station could man the new station and the existing building at Winnellie could be used as a vehicle maintenance depot.
3. There is currently no proposal to build a fire station or depot in the 14 mile area.

4. A fire station at the 19 mile is being considered as part of the draft three year forward capital works program. Again, no final decision will be made until studies in progress have been completed.

5. The NT Fire Brigade controls the area bounded by the Howard and Elizabeth Rivers extending south to about 1 km past the Noonamah rail crossing. The Bush Fires Council assumes responsibility for fire control outside this area.

6. The Fire Brigade currently employs 116 uniformed personnel, which represents a ratio of 1.2 per thousand population of the Northern Territory. There is currently no plan to make any significant change to this ratio.

625 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

There will be no change in the arrangements for the provision of miscellaneous benefits to persons without dependants after 1 July 1978 until such time as the board of inquiry completes its investigations and report.

626 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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?

ANSWER

I draw the honourable member's attention to the Public Service Commissioner's Annual Report which provides details of approved establishment in January, July and December, 1977. The December figure would not differ from the figure of 1 January 1978 as all positions for the January transfer were approved prior to 1 January 1978.

Approved establishment for 31 May 1978 by departments was as follows:

Establishment - NTPS 31 May 1978

Department of the Chief Secretary	92
Office of Ombudsman	8
Treasury	60
Department of Law	159
Department of Community Development	263
Department of Transport and Works	215
Department of Industrial Development	19
Department of Lands and Housing	56
Department of Mines and Energy	13
NT Police	633
NT Emergency Services	16
NT Port Authority	87
Public Service Commissioner's Office	43
Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission	114
Legislative Assembly	23
Museums and Art Galleries	20
NT Housing Commission	133

NT Tourist Board		39
NT Electricity Commission		516
	TOTAL	2,509

To place the figures in perspective, it is important to note that there is a progressive approval to increased levels of establishment to meet the transfer of positions and staff on 1 July 1978.

709 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY

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

ANSWER

The 436 sq km of Auvergne Station required for the Keep River National Park has not yet been purchased. The Department of Administrative Services have begun work on the acquisition on behalf of the NT government but actual purchase negotiations with the owners, the Auvergne Pastoral Company have not yet begun as funds have not yet been allocated by the Northern Territory government for the purchase. It is intended to make funds available and proceed with the acquisition by agreement in 1978-1979.

741 Mr PERKINS to TREASURER

1. What price per litre is paid for the diesel fuel supplied to the Alice Springs power house?
2. How many litres of diesel fuel is it anticipated that the Alice Springs power house could consume for the year ending 30 June 1979?
3. Could the Alice Springs power station be modified to operate on coal? If so, at what cost?
4. What factors contribute to the difference between projected electricity consumption figures over the next ten years (11.5% per annum) and the projected growth in population (3.5% per annum)?
5. Does the Majority Party and/or the Electricity Commission have any plans for an education program to encourage conservation of electricity?

ANSWER

1. The price per litre is 8.28 cents effective from 15 May 1978.
2. An estimated 22,000,000 litres of diesel fuel for the year ending 30 June 1979.
3. No.
4. The projected electricity consumption figures allow for:

   (a) increased use by existing consumers; and
   (b) new consumers as a result of population growth.

5. The Northern Territory Electricity Commission proposes a public education program aimed at the conservation of electricity.

757 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can he ascertain -

(a) what is the estimated cost of construction materials to be purchased in the Territory for use in the Nabalco extension project; and
(b) what is the estimated cost of construction materials to be purchased outside the Territory for use in the same project?

ANSWER

No information on the Nabalco extension project is available at this time.

759 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

When will a start be made on the compilation of Northern Territory statistics on -

(a) work accidents; and
(b) the loss ratio of NT workmen's compensation insurers?

ANSWER

(a) Some compilation of statistics on work accidents already takes place but is not published. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has undertaken to prepare statistics comparable with those published in other parts of Australia, separately identified for the Northern Territory. Tabulation is understood to have commenced and the initial statistics should be available in the near future.

(b) The Premiums Advisory Committee met recently and a recommendation is understood to have been drafted for an amendment to the ordinance to provide for bi-annual returns which would enable formulation of a loss ratio calculation.

793 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

In which countries are the names of political parties permitted or required to be placed beside the names of candidates on ballot papers at elections?

ANSWER

I draw the attention of the Leader of the Opposition to Standing Order No. 90 and suggest that he does his own research.

"90. Questions may be put to an Executive Member relating to public affairs for which he accepts responsibility, to proceedings pending in the Assembly, or to any matter of administration for which he accepts responsibility."

794 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

1. How many non-English speaking children have been enrolled in government schools in the Northern Territory in each year since 1972?

2. How many migrant English teachers have been employed by the CTS for work in the Northern Territory in each year since 1972?

3. What is the percentage of migrant English teachers of the total number of teachers currently employed by the CTS in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

1. 1973 - 533 of non-English speaking origin (excluding Aborigines) enrolled.

225 in child migrant program.
1974 - 290 receiving assistance under child migrant program.
1975 - 239 receiving assistance under child migrant program.
1976 - 351 receiving assistance under child migrant program.
1977 - 485 receiving assistance under child migrant program.
1978 - 510 receiving assistance under child migrant program.

2. Totals as at end of each year -

1973 - 1 supervisor, 1 (adult programs), 8 (child programs)
1974 - 1 supervisor, 3 (adult programs), 10 (child programs)
1975 - 1 supervisor, 2 (adult programs), 13 (child programs) (included 4 Timorese teachers employed third term to work at the Bilingual School for Timorese children).
1976 - 1 supervisor, 3 (adult programs), 13 (child programs)
1977 - 1 S.E.A. migrant education, 1 E.A. adult migrant education, 1 senior teacher primary programs (Darwin area), 1 senior teacher, child and adult programs (NT outside of Darwin area). 2.5 adult programs, 17.5 child programs.
1978 - Senior positions as for 1977. 3.5 adult programs, 16.5 child programs.

3. 1.6%. This percentage includes teachers working in the adult program.

816 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it true that conditions of service for new recruits into the Northern Territory Public Service have not yet been finalised?
2. If not, is it intended that conditions for new recruits will differ from transferred employees?
3. If the conditions of service have been determined for new recruits, in what way do they differ from conditions of service for transferred staff?

ANSWER

The answers to parts 1 and 2 of the above question are the same as those provided to question No. 814.

In regard to part 3 of the question, as previously stated, conditions of service of new recruits to the service have been finalised and they do differ from transferred employees in some respects. Those conditions of service that do differ, with their differences, are as follows:

District allowance - While localities and rates have uniform application, the provisions referring to married and single employees, as applicable to transferred employees, have been omitted. The higher rate of district allowance is now paid to new recruits only if they are maintaining dependants and a dependant is defined as a person who is in receipt of income less than the minimum weekly adult wage including district allowance.

Allowance where employee is unable to obtain departmental quarters - differs from a transferred employee's conditions in that the allowance is only payable in respect of claimed dependants who are fully dependent and not just because an employee is married.

Reimbursement of fares on leave -

(a) new recruits wherever located in the Territory have the same destinations entitlements whereas transferred employees have defined travel destinations according to location;

(b) new recruits are permitted to travel on leave to Hobart and Canberra; most transferred employees are not;

(c) new recruits make no contribution, transferred employees in most cases do;

(d) there is no automatic entitlement to the grant of a fare in the first twelve months of service. Transferred employees have some rights in this respect;

(e) fares are only granted to new recruits' dependants who are not entitled to fares assistance from any other source and are not in receipt of income in excess of the weekly adult minimum wage. Transferred employees have a right to fares for spouse and children irrespective of their income and employment conditions.

Temperate Clothing Allowance -

(a) Payment of the allowance is restricted to those employees who have not travelled outside the Territory for any purpose in the preceding thirty months. Transferred employees have no such restriction but must have lived and/or worked in the Territory for at least two years;

(b) applications will not be considered from employees who are required as a normal part of their duties to travel to a temperate locality. This provision does not apply to transferred employees;

(c) the Public Service Commissioner will determine the amount of the allowance and the conditions applicable in each case. The rate payable to a transferred employee is fixed as are the conditions.

818 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY

1. In what specific ways does the NT Tourist Board or its staff assist industry in the Territory?

2. What specific support has been given by the NT Tourist Board to the Regional Tourist Promotion Associations throughout the Territory, both financially and physically?

ANSWER

1. Assistance is provided to the tourist industry in the development, marketing and advertising of facilities and tour operations. Such assistance includes the initial production of advertising brochures for new enterprises and those specifically in need of promotion, provided their services meet necessary requirements and standards.

   Consultation and advice is provided to operators seeking guidance in the development of new tour products. Since the appointment of a regional manager in Darwin in July last year the Tourist Board has initiated increasing assistance to the industry which will be further expanded in its regional development role.

2. The five main roles of regional tourist associations are:

   (a) To bring more people into the region as tourists.

   (b) To assist people when they come into the region, by providing them with all relevant information.

   (c) To obtain more development for the region in the form of additional tourist facilities.

   (d) To find ways and means of improving existing facilities.

   (e) To educate the population of the region on the value and importance of tourism to the local economy.

   To assist such associations to achieve these objectives grants were provided last year to all Northern Territory Associations for the following purposes:

(a) Provision of tourist information services.

(b) Employment of casual, part-time or full-time tourist information officer.

(c) Improvement and/or development of visitor facilities.

Grants were provided in 1977-1978 on the following basis:

(a) Initial grant of $1,500.

(b) Up to a further $2,500 on the basis of $1 for every $2 subscribed by the private sector and municipality within the region.

(c) For year only, up to $1,000 for purchase office equipment.

	Darwin	Katherine	Gove	Tennant Creek	Alice Springs
(a)	1,500 00	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
(b)	4,000.00	*	-	-	4,000
(c)	989.07	*	-	-	467.87
Other grants (i)	485.00	-	-	-	-
(ii)	1,040.28	-	-	-	-
(iii)	2,000.00	-	-	-	-
	10,014.35	1,500	1,500	1,500	5,967.85

* Grant approved for 1978-1979
(i) Contribution to official welcome (wholesalers) Asian travel agents
(ii) "Back to Darwin" - secretarial services
(iii) "Back to Darwin" - secretarial services and promotional costs.

Physical support provided included:

Employment of limited tenure staff to assist Tourist Promotion Associations. Provision of staff escort on Asian wholesalers travel agents familiarisation and promotional tour of Top End. Printing and provision of promotional material, entry forms, programs etc.

819 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY

1. Does the NT Tourist Board propose to increase staff? If so, to what extent?
2. Why was the NT Tourist Board Annual Report for 1976-1977 not tabled until June 1978?
3. What specific development projects has the Tourist Board sponsored or assisted with in the Top End of the Territory?
4. How much assistance, information and help in travel is given to Territory residents by the staff of the tourist bureaux?

ANSWER

1. The staffing of the Northern Territory Tourist Board is currently under review and a submission will be shortly sent to the Northern Territory Public Service Commissioner.
2. The report from Commonwealth Audit was not received at Tourist Board head office until mid-December. The honourable minister was supplied with all information pertaining to the Annual Report mid-January, however, the Tourist Board was unable to have the actual report printed until just prior to Easter. Printed copies were forwarded in April for

presentation during the next sittings of the Legislative Assembly.

3. Until the advent of self-government in the Northern Territory the Tourist Board has been limited in its capacity to undertake or sponsor specific development projects in the Northern Territory.

   The board has, however, continued to develop the marketing of tour products and operations in Top End, including the introduction and promotion of domestic air package tours.

4. The tourist bureaux situated in Darwin and Alice Springs have full facilities to provide assistance, information and help as well as reservation and booking services to Territory residents and visitors for travel both within the Northern Territory and within Australia. Neither tourist bureau sells international travel.

820 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY

I refer to the NT Tourist Board Report for 1976-1977 and ask:

1. What results have been achieved by the NT Tourism Development Study mentioned in the report?
2. Who is conducting this study?
3. What role, if any, has the Tourist Board played in the study?
4. When can we expect any reports from this study?

ANSWER

1. The Northern Territory Tourism Development Study has so far identified origin of Northern Territory visitors, their attitudes towards Northern Territory attractions, mode of transport, age and sex, and purpose of trip be it holiday or business.

   The objectives of the study are to define existing facilities, identify deficiencies and future development opportunities for tourism in the Northern Territory.

2. The study was undertaken by the Commonwealth Departments of the Northern Territory and Industry and Commerce plus the Northern Territory Department of Transport and Industry and the Northern Territory Tourist Board with the assistance of the Chamber of Industries.

   After the transfer of powers on 1 July, responsibility for the study passed to the Northern Territory government.

3. The Tourist Board has played an active role in the study. The director or his delegate was a member of the study's steering committee which was charged with the overall supervision of the study.

   The board also supplied a representative on the working committee which was charged with the actual compilation and gathering of relevant data.

4. The first progress report was released in September 1977.

821 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY

What feasibility studies were carried out prior to the decision to set up a Tourist Board office in Cairns?

What were the results of those studies?

ANSWER

There has been no decision made to establish a Tourist Board office in Cairns in the immediate future.

Currently under examination is a proposal to appoint a local agent for the Tourist Board. This agent would handle Northern Territory inquiries and reservations and if there is sufficient demand for such service the Tourist Board will re-examine the situation with a view to physically establishing an office in Cairns.

822 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

How many old-age pensioners are residents of the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

2,208 age pensions were being paid in the Northern Territory as at 30 June 1978.

824 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Who are the trustees of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust in the Territory?
2. Who appoints them?
3. What is their term of office?
4. Are any efforts made to ensure that the trustees are representative of the community?

ANSWER

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust is an autonomous body and does not come within the area of responsibility of this government.

However, I recognise that there may be considerable public interest in any organisation of this nature, and therefore provide the following information for the benefit of the honourable member:

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, which was established in Australia in 1965, is an autonomous body which carries the responsibility of perpetuating the memory of Sir Winston Churchill. As a national body, it is basically controlled by a board of directors headed by the National Director, Sir William Kilpatrick, and consisting of a board of directors nominated by the national body without regard to state or territory representation.

The trust has a series of regional committees in the states and territories which are for the purpose of interviewing and nominating candidates to be considered at a national level when the fellowships are allocated annually.

The members of the Northern Territory Regional Committee are as follows:

Chairman: E.F. Dwyer

Members: J. Bowditch
J.W. Fisher
R. Harris
H.H. Garner
G.A. Letts
I.F. McGregor.

The members are appointed or terminated at the pleasure of the national body and there is no established term of office. Although there is no requirement for specific areas of the community to be represented, the Territory committee has always attempted to get a broad cross-section and I think you will agree that the presently constituted Northern Territory committee does have that broad cross-section.

825 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER FOR LANDS AND HOUSING

1. 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?
2. When might people who have made applications since 1 January 1978 pursuant to section 38A of the Town Planning Ordinance, to change the zoning of land situated in the Darwin area, expect their applications to be dealt with?
3. Under what provision of the Town Planning Ordinance was the chairman of the Town Planning Board able to insert a notice in the Northern Territory News on 30 March 1978 which stated, inter alia, that the board "cannot consider applications to amend the Darwin Town Plan 1977 currently on public exhibition, until the Plan is approved"?

ANSWER

1. No approvals have been notified in the Gazette since 1 January 1978 in respect of applications made in the Darwin area pursuant to section 38A of the Town Planning Ordinance, because the Town Planning Board has deferred decisions on applications made since 1 January 1978 until the 1977 Darwin Town Plan, which was placed on exhibition on that date, has been approved.
2. Applications made pursuant to section 38A since 1 January 1978 have been dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the ordinance. The Town Planning Board will be considering the applications further as soon as the plan is approved.
3. The Town Planning Board is a body corporate and no specific statutory authority is required for the board and its chairman to advise the public on matters of public interest involving the administration of the ordinance.

829 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR LANDS AND HOUSING

1. How many pensioners are on the pensioners waiting list for accommodation with the Northern Territory Housing Commission?
2. How long is the waiting time for pensioners to be accommodated?
3. Is it intended to have a display of the waiting list of pensioners in the same manner as before the cyclone?
4. Are there any restrictions on pensioners eligible for accommodation in Tuckwell Court and, if so, what are they?

ANSWER

1. The total number of pensioners on the waiting list for accommodation is currently 86. This figure includes invalid, widow, war service, deserted wives and aged pensioners. The number of aged pensioners is approximately 35.
2. The waiting time is approximately 12 - 15 months.

3. Yes, it is intended to have a display of the waiting list of pensioners.

4. Pensioners eligible for Tuckwell Court must be aged pensioners; there are no further restrictions. Aged pensioners are also allocated accommodation in other flat complexes, Wirrina, Kurringal, Carinya and Hudson Fysh.

832 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY

1. How many betting shops were operating in the Northern Territory on 1/6/1978?

2. In what localities were these shops operating, and how many were there in each locality?

3. How many full-time employees were working in Northern Territory betting shops on 1/6/1978?

4. How many part-time employees were working in Northern Territory betting shops on 1/6/1978?

ANSWER

1. On 1/6/1978 there were 32 betting shops operating in the Northern Territory.

2. These 32 shops were operating in Darwin (19), Alice Springs (5), Tennant Creek (3), Katherine (3), Nhulunbuy (1) and Alyangula (1).

3. On 1/6/1978 there were 44 full-time employees working in Northern Territory betting shops.

4. On 1/6/1978 there were 88 part-time employees working in Northern Territory betting shops.

833 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How much by way of travelling allowance was paid to each member of the Legislative Assembly from 1 July 1977 to 13 August 1977?

2. How much by way of travelling allowance was paid to each member of the Legislative Assembly from 13 August 1977 to 30 June 1978?

ANSWER

Travelling allowance paid to members of the Legislative Assembly -

1. 1 July 1977 to 13 August 1977

Miss E.J. Andrew	Nil
Mr M.J. Ballantyne	$ 315.00
Mr N. Dondas	Nil
Mr P.A.E. Everingham	Nil
Mr R.J. Kentish	Nil
Mrs A.D. Lawrie	Nil
Dr G.A. Letts	$1,935.00
Mr G.E. Manuell	$ 225.00
Mr J.L.S. MacFarlane	$ 885.00
Mr M.B. Perron	$ 168.00
Mr D.L. Pollock	$ 405.00
Mr J.M. Robertson	$ 389.00
Mr R. Ryan	Nil
Mr R.M. Steele	Nil
Mr G.E. Tambling	$ 123.00
Mr H. Tungutalum	$ 90.00
Mr I.L. Tuxworth	$2,044.00
Mr R.W.S. Vale	$ 225.00
Mr R.J. Withnall	$ 225.00

2. 14 August 1977 to 30 June 1978

Mr M.J. Ballantyne	$3,285.00
Mr B. Collins	$1,935.00
Mr N. Dondas	$ 90.00
Mr J.K.R. Doolan	$ 90.00
Ms J. D'Rozario	Nil
Mr P.A.E. Everingham	$3,150.00
Mr T. Harris	Nil
Mr J.M. Isaacs	$ 180.00
Mrs A.D. Lawrie	$ 45.00
Mr J.L.S. MacFarlane	$3,780.00
Mr R. C. Oliver	$2,205.00
Mrs P.F. O'Neil	Nil
Mrs C.N. Padgham-Purich	$ 45.00
Mr N.G. Perkins	$2,430.00
Mr M.B. Perron	$1,035.00
Mr J.M. Robertson	$6,345.00
Mr R.M. Steele	$2,880.00
Mr I.L. Tuxworth	$7,605.00
Mr R.W.S. Vale	$3,105.00

834 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What arrangements are made for workmen's compensation coverage for Northern Territory Public Service employees?

ANSWER

The Compensation (Commonwealth Government Employees) Amendment Act 1978 which received royal assent on 22 June 1978 and came into operation on 1 July 1978 ensures the continued application after 1 July 1978 of the Compensation (Commonwealth Government Employees) Act 1971 to employees of the Public Service of the Northern Territory.

835 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

1. What was the cost of spray painting the Dennis and International appliances of the Fire Brigade from red to yellow?
2. What was the price quoted per hour?
3. Were tenders called for the contract?

ANSWER

1. The actual cost of respraying each appliance is not known exactly because the work was done in conjunction with major rehabilitation for which respraying would have been required in any case. The estimated cost for spraying only is $800 for the Dennis and $1,600 for the International.
2. The hourly rate was $8.00.
3. The work was done by Stuart Panel Works under an existing period contract for which tenders had originally been publicly called.

839 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Was a meeting of government members of the Legislative Assembly held in Alice Springs on or about 14 July 1978?
2. Who paid the first class air fares of government members, not being office holders, who travelled to Alice Springs at that time?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. The Northern Territory government.

844 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

On what date or dates did he lend $2m to the trading banks in Darwin; what was the interest rate and what was the duration of each loan?

ANSWER

I am not going to release information publicly pertaining to this government's investment program. Honourable members will appreciate that, in using an investment market, the government must adhere to normal business procedures whereby it would be highly unusual to advise where such money was placed and at what rate. I do not propose doing it on behalf of this government. If the Leader of the Opposition seeks to infer some inappropriate action on behalf of myself in placing these funds, I am sure the Auditor-General for the Northern Territory, who is in fact the Commonwealth Auditor-General, will bring these matters to the public's attention and this Assembly's attention in due course.

By the way of further comment on the question, the Leader of the Opposition obviously does have some wrong information. I am not sure where his spy actually is but the information he has been quoting of late as to how much money has been placed with banks in Darwin both individually and collectively is quite wrong. His allegation that money was placed in the banking market in the Northern Territory with a view to easing liquidity in the Northern Territory is quite false. His statement in the press recently, that I had to my horror found out after the investment that the money had gone to the states, was also quite untrue. It was no surprise to me that the banks in the Northern Territory could not lend enormous sums of money on short term within the Northern Territory. It was quite clear that such money would have to go outside the Northern Territory to be used in the market at all. I suggest the Leader of the Opposition should ask his spy for some more detailed information if he seeks to have any credibility for his allegations.

845 Mr DONDAS to TREASURER

Is he able to advise me which department is administering Commonwealth government home sales for Commonwealth public servants? Is he also able to tell me if the policy for such home sales is the same as it was before 1 July?

ANSWER

If an option to purchase a Commonwealth government house was given prior to 30 June, then the sale would proceed through the Home Finance Trustee. If the option to purchase arose after 1 July, those sales are now proceeding through the home sales section of the Department of Administrative Services. As far as I can ascertain, the Commonwealth home sales scheme will remain the same at least for the time being.

846 Mr PERKINS to TREASURER

On the day or days that he lent the $2m to each of the trading banks in Darwin, did he actually check with all or any of the nine official money market dealers to determine whether better rates and conditions were available on the official market?

ANSWER

I refer to my earlier answer to the honourable Leader of the Opposition's question on the same subject and decline to answer that question.

847 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Could he outline to this House the present activities of the board of inquiry into welfare services?

ANSWER

All honourable members will, of course, be aware that the composition of the board of inquiry has now been settled. The secretary of the board of inquiry has issued a public notice that submissions are requested by 22 September this year. The board will naturally be disinclined to discard any submissions made after that date but in order to catalyse interest in the public mind, a date had to be given and 22 September has been chosen as a suitable deadline for people to prepare their submissions to the board of inquiry.

I would point out to the honourable members and to the public in general that the Department of Community Development will make its officers available to anyone in the community and any group in the community which requires assistance in the preparation of any submissions. The terms of reference of the inquiry are of course very complex and wide ranging, and it would be quite normal to expect that many community groups would need some significant assistance in the preparation of their submissions to the inquiry.

The secretary to the inquiry, under instructions from its chairman, has also advised the public that the word "evidence" will not be used in the normal sense. We have picked up the spirit of the words used by both the honourable member for Arnhem and the honourable member for Nightcliff and the inquiry will be undertaking its task more along the lines of conversations or discussions with people.

The inquiry has now been launched and as I say, the department will make itself available to assist community groups. But there are two things I think community groups must do: firstly, they must indicate as soon as they possibly can to the inquiry their intention to make representations and their intention, of course, to have discussions with the board of inquiry itself. The second thing I think the board of inquiry particularly wants from the community is an indication by the community as to where the inquiry should go for its public hearings. It is, of course, quite outside the competence of anyone to have a full understanding of where all the problems are. I suppose if they knew that, there would be no need for the inquiry. So I would urge people and groups around the Territory to contact the secretary of the inquiry, Mr MacDonald, with the advice that it needs to carry out its functions properly, and that is advice of their intention to make representations to the inquiry and to let it know where it should travel in the course of its inquiry.

848 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Was the money that he recently invested in trading banks in Darwin money which had already been invested elsewhere and, if so, did the withdrawal of that money cause a loss of interest to the Territory government?

ANSWER

The Opposition does not seem to have gotten the message that it would be inappropriate for me to disclose the details of the government's investment program. It is a program which is quite normal within governments; it is done all over Australia. The main purpose of the investment of funds is, of course, the maximisation of interest and earnings, for the Northern Territory government in this instance. We make no apologies for

not disclosing details of the information. The information is not going to be displayed publicly. These programs will, of course, be on going probably forever as long as the Northern Territory has a treasury. The Opposition will no doubt get snippets of information from time to time in the future on the subject of investments but questions on that subject will not be answered.

849 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Could he tell me when the telephone communications installation from Groote Eylandt to Gove by tropo-scatter will be completed?

ANSWER

I understand the equipment is being tested this week and providing these tests are satisfactory, I am advised that the system should be in operation by the end of the week.

850 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

In view of the answer just given, can he explain to the Assembly why it is that the Northern Territory government gave $771,000 to the Alice Springs council for the building of a council chambers when that council was not likely to require that money for another 12 to 18 months, thus giving the value of the interest not to the Northern Territory government but to the Alice Springs city council?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the history of the move by the Alice Springs council to obtain funds to build a civic centre in Alice Springs should be well known to the Opposition but, quite obviously, it is not and that is to their discredit.

The original agreement setting up the Alice Springs corporation of course, included an agreement by the Commonwealth at that time to assist in the establishment of a civic centre for Alice Springs to provide reasonable accommodation for the town corporation. However, as time went by and costs escalated from time to time, an agreement was reached as to how much subsidy the government should pay to the Alice Springs corporation. By that time further proceedings had gone on; figures had been obtained and designs drawn up, and of course, the costs got out of hand. This was during times of much high inflation than we have at the moment. However, there was still high inflation and each time the Alice Springs corporation came to make a firm decision on building its civic centre, it found the funds that were able to be provided, or which were agreed upon by the federal government to be provided, were insufficient and so a fresh application would have to be made, or was made on a regular basis. I am sure the Alice Springs corporation got pretty fed up with the whole deal and I think justly so.

What the Northern Territory government decided to do, rather than procrastinate and defer this matter any longer, was to agree with the Alice Springs town corporation that a sum of money would be provided by the government to assist in establishing a civic centre, that it would be paid in a lump sum to the corporation so that inflationary aspects could be countered by the corporation by investing the money itself and, thereby, there would be no further case for it to come to the Northern Territory government for additional cost increases as a result of inflation. This is a similar basis, Mr Speaker, as the Northern Territory government has with the Commonwealth government, inasmuch as we are getting sums in advance of our requirements and are able to offset some of the effects of inflation

through investment. I think it was a commendable move by the Northern Territory government to have taken the reins on this matter and made a firm decision to end a situation which has been going on for many years in Alice Springs, a totally unsatisfactory situation which emanated from an inflexible financial situation which prevailed in the Northern Territory under the Commonwealth government. I am surprised that the Labor Opposition would see this as a poor move and as bad administration, and I am sure the people of Alice Springs would hardly agree with them.

851 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it true that a direction has been given to the Electricity Commissioner not to disconnect the supply of electricity of consumers who have outstanding accounts with the Department of the Northern Territory prior to 1 July?

ANSWER

The short answer is yes.

852 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it a fact that the Northern Territory Fire Brigade will be allowed to quote on the maintenance and service of fire protection equipment for the Northern Territory when tenders are called in September 1978? That would mean that as a semi-governmental body they are quoting in direct competition with private enterprise.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think that is quite incorrect, I do not believe they have the legal ability to quote against outside contractors. There is a story, though, that they do wish to do some of the maintenance and work themselves as opposed to letting it all go out to contract. So there is a fair chance that they will take a slice of the work and let the rest out. That is my understanding of it. I am quite happy to go and check it out, and give the member the full details on it.

853 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of his accepted liaison responsibility for the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, what is being done in a concrete, not consultative, way for the Aboriginals who are camped at the Howard Springs dump?

ANSWER

I am unable to answer that question at the moment. I will seek the information from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and attempt to provide the answer tomorrow.

854 Mrs O'NEIL to TREASURER

I remind him of his recent criticisms of the Darwin City Council regarding the untidy state of the city area. I now ask whether he is aware that $130,000 of government money has been wasted spray painting Elcom vehicles? If he is so aware, I ask why he did not ensure that this money was used for a more worthwhile purpose, such as the beautification of Territory centres?

ANSWER

I am not sure of the actual figures but I am sure the figure quoted by

the honourable member for Fannie Bay of $130,000 for respraying Northern Territory Electricity Commission vehicles is quite incorrect which does not surprise me at all. I suggest that, if she has any particular complaints about the expenditure of that money, she direct a question to the appropriate minister and seek an explanation.

855 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why is approximately $2m being spent on a contract to upgrade the power supply in the Nightcliff area without undergrounding it at the same time?

ANSWER

I have no up-to-date information, whether this is a firm proposal or not, but I will try to get that information and give it to the honourable member today.

856

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has a time limit been set for the restoration of historical buildings in the Port Darwin area?

ANSWER

This area actually overlaps into another portfolio. However, there has been no specific time limit put on the restoration of any historic buildings in the Port Darwin area but talks are being held with the National Trust in the near future on proposals it has for the use of various sites in the Darwin area and the materials on those sites which resulted from damage by the Cyclone Tracy. So it is envisaged that over a period in the near future a plan will be evolved for the restoration of those sites that are going to be restored and who is going to be in charge of those sites in the future and matters of such detail.

857 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise the House when the Opposition is likely to receive answers to the 37 questions still on the notice paper in relation to Willeroo?

ANSWER

As far as I am aware, all questions that have been asked of me have been answered and I expect they are very close to being presented to the members who asked those questions.

858 Mr DONDAS to TREASURER

What is the current waiting period for persons seeking housing loans from the Home Finance Trustee?

ANSWER

The current waiting period for the $20,000 loan is between eight and ten weeks from the date of application, provided there are no particular problems with the application concerned.

859 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

In his forthcoming budget will he recognise the Territory's unemployment problem and will he therefore allocate money for specific job creation

schemes which will assist groups that are particularly affected by unemployment, such as school leavers and Aboriginals?

ANSWER

I suggest the honourable member wait for the presentation of the Northern Territory budget to find out.

860 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

I have asked this question on several occasions earlier. Now that he has direct responsibility for the Northern Territory Police Force, is it his intention that members of that force in uniform be identified either by name or number?

ANSWER

I have had direct responsibility for the Northern Territory Police Force since last September and I do not recall the honourable member for Nightcliff asking me this question previously, although I certainly would not pretend that my memory is exhaustive on the subject; she may have. Certainly I have not given the matter any consideration since I took up political responsibility for the administration of the Police Force. I will now turn my attention to it and consult with the Police Commissioner and the police associations, both the Commissioned Officers Association and Police Other Ranks Association, to ascertain their attitudes and will then make a decision on the matter. However, I would say at this stage that I think it would now be almost two years since the police ceased wearing numbers on their shirts. I cannot recall, in my association with the legal profession until last September and in my political career since then, that there has been any occasion when any inconvenience has been caused to any member of the public by the fact that police officers were not wearing numbers on their shirts.

861 Mr PERKINS to TREASURER

How does he propose to boost the flagging consumer and business confidence in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

It is the member's own statement that we have a flagging consumer and business interest in the Northern Territory and I would seek that he justify the statement before expecting an answer.

862 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Could he advise how much money was spent on respraying the Electricity Commission vehicles and could he also advise why it was necessary to spend this money on changing the colour and why this matter could not have been left until the Electricity Commission was issued with new vehicles which could have been painted in the appropriate colour?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the exact amount. I was advised that it was in the vicinity of $18,000 but I would stand corrected on that. I was advised that the reason for the colour change was so that the vehicles could be more readily identified away from their orange brothers. As for the question why it could not have been delayed until they got new vehicles, it was the mad scramble before 30 June to get money spent. That will not exist any more in the Northern Territory but certainly it did exist prior

to 30 June. That was money that would have gone back to the federal Treasurer.

863 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Apart from the three return fares per year for which they are eligible now, what other financial help do the parents of children on outback stations receive when they must send their children away from home for primary and secondary education?

ANSWER

The honourable member's question is a very complex one which requires considerable research. I will undertake to have that research done and provide an answer, probably not during the course of this sittings but as soon as I possibly can. I would, however, advise the House that both myself and the Chief Minister have been in communication with the Department of Education recently expressing our concern as to what we believe is the inadequacy of these special provisions being made available to rural people. I am quite sure the Chief Minister is determined, and I certainly am, to have this matter thoroughly examined between now and the time when the function of education becomes a responsibility of this government. I can assure rural people that, within whatever financial priorities we have, their deprivation in terms of education as a result of their isolation will be looked after to the fullest extent by our government at that time.

864 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he inform the House why there has been such a long delay in the signing of a lease agreement between the Northern Territory Port Authority and V.B. Perkins? He will note that I have had a question on the notice paper from 7 March 1978 about this matter.

ANSWER

Yes, we must confess to some delay. Something like eight to nine years have gone by without Perkins getting a lease. Of course, it was not our responsibility until we took over the administration of the Port Authority. We have tried many times to grant a lease to the Perkins Company. At present I understand the ball is back in his court. We have given him the final declaration of our requirements in respect of the lease and it is now up to him and his lawyers to come back to us inside the next 60 days, or we will look at alternative action.

865 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will the Bagot speedway be relocated? Is it likely to be relocated before the next dry season?

ANSWER

It is unlikely that the speedway will be relocated before next dry season. Unless a great deal of money is poured into the exercise, I doubt that it could be built before the next dry season. However, negotiations are proceeding with the speedway people with a view to a new site for the Darwin speedway. It is hoped that, in resiting the speedway, we can also provide sufficient land in the same area for other motor sports such as drag racing, a motor racing circuit, go-cart racing and the like. We can perhaps create a motor sports complex situated near enough to the population so that it will be patronised, yet far enough away that we will not have the problems we have with the Bagot Park

speedway at the present time. Unfortunately, I do not foresee the speedway being relocated between now and the next dry season.

866 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What is the current waiting period for housing for both Housing Commission and NT public servant applicants?

ANSWER

I am informed that the waiting period for a Housing Commission house at present is about ten to twelve months and the waiting period for Northern Territory public servants staff housing is somewhere between six to ten months. Both these periods can vary with the circumstances involved in a particular application. They also depend on the speed at which the restoration and construction of houses is being completed. The Housing Commission is at present still restoring many of its houses damaged during the cyclone. They are coming off onto stream for reallocation at a fairly rapid rate. Times can change for various applicants but that gives the honourable member a rough idea of current waiting periods.

867 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware that the Church of England is still waiting for a reply from the Minister for the Northern Territory regarding the fate of Carpentaria College which has been offered back to the department by the church? If he is aware of this, what steps can he take to expedite the process?

ANSWER

The Church of England can stop waiting for a reply from the Minister for the Northern Territory because the matter is now in the hands of the Northern Territory government since 1 July and our Treasury...

Mrs Lawrie: They do not know that.

Mr PERRON: In reply to the interjection, they should realise that virtually the whole of the Northern Territory has been vested in the Northern Territory government and it has taken over all contracts, agreements and loans existing between various persons and the Commonwealth. At present, treasury officers are having talks with officers of the Department of Law to seek legal advice on the appropriate course of action to take back from the Church of England the lease on which Carpentaria College is situated. I would hope there would be an early resolution to this matter now that it is in the hands of Northern Territory officers.

868 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I expressed some concern at the last sittings of this Assembly regarding the stormwater drainage system located at Darwin Community College. Is he able to advise me what protective measures have been taken to prevent the entry into the pipe system of children playing in the area and can he assure me that positive protective steps will be taken before the next wet?

ANSWER

I can offer that assurance. The design should have been completed yesterday and construction should start as soon as that is confirmed.

869 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he explain to the Assembly why the Mining (Gove Peninsula Nabalco Agreement) Ordinance which passed through this Assembly has not received assent in the light of the statement he made to this Assembly that without that particular ordinance, there would be no agreement?

ANSWER

There are some intricate matters of law involved in answering this question and I would propose to have a written response for the Leader of the Opposition later this day.

870 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I believe a submission has been forwarded to him by a Darwin businessman to build a car park for 450 cars at the rear of the Victoria Hotel. Is he able to advise me if a decision has been made regarding this application?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any application having been received by my office or indeed the town planning section for the car park mentioned. A meeting was being arranged between the city corporation and ourselves to talk about a potential multi-storey car park in the central business district of Darwin a month or so ago. The meeting was cancelled by the city corporation before it got under way and we are now waiting for another meeting to be convened to discuss this matter. Other than that, I have no further details at all for the honourable member.

871 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Can he now confirm whether the Northern Territory will be a participant in the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory will participate in the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement or an agreement along similar lines but possibly not for the current financial year. Unfortunately, the matter has not been able to be completely resolved between our own officers and officers of the Commonwealth Treasury. At present, we are still being funded for housing in the same manner as we were funded in the past: in the Northern Territory's global vote we will receive an allocation for the Housing Commission's house construction program. However, I have the Housing Commission doing some work on proposals to introduce schemes within the current funding arrangements of the Northern Territory that would be somewhat similar as far as the purchaser and renter is concerned to the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement. I understand there is no particular obstacle in achieving this. However, there is a fair bit of work involved and I will be making public announcements when I get decisions on the subject.

872 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Does he anticipate that the proposed arterial road between Ludmilla and Fannie Bay will commence this financial year?

ANSWER

I will provide a reply to that a little bit later.

873 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What support is the government providing to the Italian community for the Italian festival year?

ANSWER

The Department of Community Development, in conjunction with the Arts Council of the Northern Territory, is sponsoring a member of the Italian community to attend the Brisbane conference which will be the steering conference of the festival year for the Italian community. I would anticipate that there will be additional assistance available from time to time through the Office of Ethnic Affairs if the Italian community would wish to avail itself of that. The specific assistance given at this stage is an air fare for that person to travel to the conference. They would be more than welcome to liaise with officers of my department in the future should they require any further help.

875 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Would he agree with Senator Withers who said in the Senate in 1975 that "a refusal of information is the first step towards tyranny and that people denied information cannot judge the facts"? In the light of that and in the light of the answer that he gave to my question yesterday, when will he provide the Opposition with answers to questions on Willeroo?

Mr EVERINGHAM: A point of order, Mr Speaker! The question seeks an expression of opinion and is, in my view, out of order under the Standing Orders.

876 Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he inform the House of any progress made with the revision of the Mining Ordinance?

ANSWER

Officers from the Department of Mines and Energy, formerly the Mines Branch of the Department of the Northern Territory, have been working for nearly two years on the principle and preparing the groundwork for a new mining ordinance. The progress made to date, as far as I am concerned, is satisfactory in that the department has prepared a paper based on the principles that will be incorporated in the bill. This paper will be circulated to members of the House and to people in the industry and to anybody else who feels they have an interest in any new mining legislation, so that input can be obtained at an early stage towards the formulation of the ordinance.

Mr Speaker, there are two points I would like to point out. The first one is that very often in this House we get to a stage with legislation where the House would like to change or bend a principle that is embodied in the bill by an amendment in the committee stage or whatever and very often we defeat the purpose that we set out to achieve by doing this. One of the reasons we are going to print this at an early stage is so that the principles and the groundwork can be established at a very early stage and there will be no hassling or trying to bend the system at a later stage in committee to try and achieve an end that we might think is desirable.

I believe it is also important, Mr Speaker, that there be a general concensus on this type of legislation because, in the interests of the Northern Territory and in the interest of having a stable mining industry, it is not acceptable or satisfactory to this government or to the industry as a whole to have legislation that is controversial and will, in fact, be changed because a change in government can change the rules under which the industry operates. One way we feel we could overcome a lot of this is to have these basic principles dicussed fairly widely at an early stage.

Mr Speaker, the very difficult problem with this exercise is the printing aspect of it. There will not be an unlimited supply of material available but if honourable members would like copies or have people who would like to receive copies of it, I would be grateful if they would let me know.

877 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it true that he does not intend to answer the questions on Willeroo which are on the notice paper, thus denying the public the chance to

assess the facts about that proposed purchase?

ANSWER

The short answer is no.

878 Mr DONDAS to TREASURER

When will the next Darwin residential land auction be held and is he also able to indicate when more flat sites will be made available?

ANSWER

It is expected that there will be a land auction held in October in Darwin, with approximately 38 R1 blocks put to auction and an undetermined number of R2 blocks. The new planning schedules that are in use at the moment do not really have a specification for flats as such, as we have now changed to R2 and R3 zoning, and R1 is a medium density zoning which would probably satisfy the honourable member's question.

879 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware that the Housing Commission has demanded a sum of $35 from certain prospective tenants in addition to the normal fortnight's rent in advance before these prospective tenants will be placed in accommodation?

ANSWER

No, Mr Speaker, I am not aware of the figure that the honourable member has mentioned. However, I will endeavour to seek the information from the commission and the reasons for requesting this additional sum of money, if it is a fact.

880 Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise when the presently closed school at Napperby will be reopened?

ANSWER

I believe there is light at the end of the tunnel in this long and sad saga. It is my understanding that, thanks to the intervention of the Department of Administrative Services, the dispute between the owner of the property and the Department of Education has now been resolved. I would anticipate that the school will be opened within the next week or two.

881 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is it true that the plans for the proposed museum at Bullocky Point have been scrapped and that new plans will be designed by local architects?

ANSWER

The question of the future of the proposed museum at Bullocky Point is dependent firstly upon the environmental impact statement which I understand is now progressing and which I believe might well turn out to be favourable. The future of the design of that building is a matter of economic reality. The plans as proposed by the architects who were commissioned to do layout drawings for the Museums and Art Galleries Board have proven to be more costly than what the government would have ini-

tially thought. A study has been undertaken by quantity surveyors and, while we, on this side of the House, are most anxious to see a museum and art gallery of which the Northern Territory can be proud, we clearly do not want another opera house on our hands. It would seem that the plans were in fact beyond the scope of what was required in the Northern Territory and the Museums and Art Galleries Board, in consultation with Cabinet, is now examining alternatives which include the proposal to go to local architects - which I fully support in any event - for the purpose of having a competition which will provide a series of drawings and sketches and layouts to the Museums and Art Galleries Board and for the approval of this government.

It is hoped there will not be any undue delay caused by this change of arrangement. The government is most anxious to see the construction of a museum and art gallery of the Northern Territory in Darwin. It is also anxious to establish a smaller but similar venue for the display of Territory arts and museum items in Alice Springs.

882 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can the minister advise whether Urangeselschaft will be granted exploration licences in the Howard Springs area?

ANSWER

I am happy to be able to say that there will be no exploration licences issued in the Howard Springs area over an area that was originally applied for by Urangeselschaft where any leaseholders have sustained an objection. The company has been asked to reconsider its application for an exploration licence, bearing in mind the great number of objections of lessees in the area over which they applied. With this in mind, as a matter of policy, we have determined that there will be no further consideration of exploration licences in the Howard Springs area or within the 40 kilometre radius of Darwin until the future town planning provisions for this region have been determined and satisfied.

883 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware that powerlines are being erected on Berrimah Road on the opposite side of the road to where they are presently installed because the road is being widened? If he is aware of this, could he please say why cables are not being placed underground while the road is being dug up, as has already been done in some new suburbs instead of the old system of overhead powerlines?

ANSWER

I was not aware of the position that the honourable member outlines. I will have a look at the matter and report back to him as soon as I can.

884 Mr BALLANTYNE to CHIEF MINISTER

Could he tell me when the Shark Cat boat for emergency services in Gove will be available and ready for service?

ANSWER

The decision was taken some time ago as a result of a tragic incident that occurred at Marchinbar Island. I think almost all the male members of a fishing family who live at Nhulunbuy were drowned. At that time, it was necessary for the police to charter a Shark Cat that was owned locally at Nhulunbuy to assist in the search and rescue operation. The Cabinet

then had a meeting at Gove shortly afterwards and representations were received that it was necessary for a vessel of some sort to be stationed at Melville Bay for this purpose. It was decided to purchase for the emergency services section, which will be able to loan it to the police force as required, a Shark Cat of over 30 feet in length. This vessel will have a considerable range and should be adequate in most circumstances for the task of search and rescue. I understand that this type of vessel is extremely seaworthy and can put to sea in most areas.

885 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the Northern Territory government considering introducing legislation at the request of the Corporation of the City of Darwin governing the operation of the proposed Smith Street mall to include, and I quote from the city council document: "power to control derelicts in Raintree Park required under a proposed ordinance"?

ANSWER

There is no proposal at the moment to pass express laws for the construction of the mall. The problem is that the city council has no power in its bylaws to close a street. That is the most significant concern of the city council. It has not yet approached the government at all about the mall so I am unable to comment on what its proposals might be. In fact, I am somewhat amazed that the council would go on display with a grand voice and a quite desirable program for a mall without contacting the government first about whether or not the funds were likely to be available. There has been no communication whatsoever to date about the mall so clearly the answer to the first part of the question is no.

The answer to the second part of the question would be the law already provides for the removal of people in such circumstances as the member for Fannie Bay outlined. In fact, it was at the last sitting of this Assembly that such legislation was passed undr my sponsorship.

886 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Now that the Todd River bridge is nearing completion are the existing causeway and footbridge to be maintained?

ANSWER

This is a local council matter. As far as I am aware, there are no plans to abandon the maintenance of those facilities and I would expect that they would be fully maintained. However, if there is any variation to this I will soon find out. I will write to the council and find out its view on the matter.

887 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that no reminder notice of when registration is due is being sent out at the moment from Motor Vehicle Registry and, if this is so, why?

ANSWER

I am not aware that that system does prevail. It was in vogue some years ago but I do not think it has been carried on for the last few years. I am not really sure on that matter. Certainly, I have not seen a reminder notice for some years. I think that is the position today: they just do not send them out any more.

888 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

I watched a certain TV program last night showing the depredation of feral cats on small wildlife. Does the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission have any plans to institute a bounty system on feral cats in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any plans that the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission has to introduce a bounty system or otherwise in respect of feral cats in the Northern Territory. It may be that the commission of inquiry into feral animals that has been set up and I understand is commencing operations at the present time could recommend such a scheme but, when matters of small detail such as this are sought by honourable members, I would suggest to honourable members on both sides of the House, if they would like to give the minister concerned about 24 hour's notice of the question, we should be able to obtain the information in that time and provide the answer on the spot. As it is, I will have to seek this information and I doubt that I will be able to provide it at this sittings.

889 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What progress has been made in the Northern Territory brucellosis eradication program? Is he satisfied with progress so far and, if not, what does he intend to do about it?

ANSWER

I believe the program is progressing fairly well. I understand that with the down-turn in the pastoral industry there has been some added complication; the stations are finding it difficult to muster because of costs and lack of markets, and there has probably been some impediment there. But on the whole I understand that most of the stations are co-operating as positively as they can and it is hoped that the program will come to its culmination in 1984.

890 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the contractor been decided upon to build Housing Commission homes at Gove; when will building commence and how many houses will be built?

ANSWER

The company with the contract to construct houses at Gove for the Housing Commission is John Holland Construction Pty Ltd. They propose to commence construction in about a week's time from now and they will be building 29 houses, 20 of them for the Housing Commission and 9 for the Northern Territory Public Service.

891 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has work on the proposed performing arts centre been commenced in view of the undertaking of the honourable Chief Minister last December to do so immediately?

ANSWER

For a start, the question is misleading in that the honourable Chief Minister did not say that the government would commence work on that immediately. The Chief Minister advised that it was one of the planning initiatives of the government. There is quite a distinct difference.

I am somewhat amazed at the tone of the question - as I was amazed, incidentally, at the tone of an article in the NT News by a so-called community arts adviser at Brown's Mart. It is interesting that the people who are first to say that we should get the trowel out and start digging trenches and putting the footings of buildings in are the first to criticise their location and design when in fact we do so. The facts of the matter are that performing arts centres are very, very expensive projects. They are projects that must be looked at in the total light of community need, location, economics and usefulness. It is useless building white elephants and we are not in that business at all.

The Cabinet is currently looking at a series of options in relation to the location of a performing arts centre in Darwin and indeed will be looking to a similar arrangement in Alice Springs. At least we have a location in Alice Springs at Araluen. But I can assure the House that no commencement will be made on this project until such time as all the parameters have been properly examined so that we build a facility which is of use to the people of Darwin and the people of the Northern Territory. Of course, we will do it within the shortest possible time which is available to us but we will do it in a responsible and planned manner.

892 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Does the minister have any details of the number of people that have been challenged and have paid on-the-spot litter fines since the legislation was introduced?

ANSWER

I believe the honourable member for Nightcliff has attempted to answer it for me. I suppose the answer she gave was one answer and, of course, she is correct when you talk in terms of who has actually paid a fine. Through the city council's inspectors there has only been one fine paid to date. Nine tickets have been isued, for dropping litter I suppose, and I understand there are ten people who are eligible as inspectors under the bylaws.

While that might sound a very poor performance, Mr Speaker, I would ask the honourable members to recall the last time they actually saw someone dropping litter. It is funny, isn't it? We see the whole city littered - not only the city but the Northern Territory - but of course, the problem is to catch the villain in the act. I wonder if we should not be looking at alternatives on the question of litter, rather than an on-the-spot fine. There was a proposal in New Zealand which I have heard of which attracts me somewhat - a proposal whereby if you are seen by a mobile inspector dropping litter from a vehicle on a road, he will follow you for at least 20 kilometres before he apprehends you, pulls you up and says, "Well, if you like to go back and pick it up, you won't be fined", but if you do not you will be prosecuted through the courts. I think is has a lot of merit. But the answer to the question, Mr Speaker, is that there have been nine tickets issued and one person has actually paid a fine.

893 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware that demands for bond or key money and the acceptance of such money by landlords in the private sector is illegal? If he is so aware, what steps will he take to discontinue the demand for $35 on the part of the Housing Commission? That sum of money is being commonly referred to as "key money" by certain staff of the Housing Commission.

ANSWER

As I understand it, the Housing Commission being a government authority is not bound by the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant Ordinance which is the legislation that forbids the raising of bond money. If she has reports that persons in the private sector are seeking bond money, she should direct that matter to the relevant cabinet member. The Housing Commission is exempt from the ordinance.

894 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise when an all-weather sealed access road from the Alice Springs powerhouse to the eastern side of the new Todd River bridge will be provided?

ANSWER

I ask that the question be placed on notice.

895 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

My question concerns a matter I raised in the House yesterday during the adjournment debate. Will the minister consider placing restrictions on the number of four-wheel-drive vehicles that can be given permits at any one time to go into areas of the national park?

ANSWER

Firstly, the Kakadu National Park has been declared by the Commonwealth and, strictly speaking, the matter of administration of Kakadu National Park is now a Commonwealth responsibility. I understand the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission is continuing to carry out administration on an ad hoc basis. This morning, I sent off to the Director of Parks and Wildlife in Alice Springs a resume of the comments of the honourable member for Arnhem from the adjournment debate yesterday afternoon. I have asked him to give the matter his consideration and advise me whether he considers action should be taken. I will notify the honourable member for Arnhem as soon as I have something back from the director.

896 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware that certain staff at the Housing Commission are informing members of the public that the Housing Commission is not a welfare housing authority? If he is so aware, can he explain to the House why the Housing Commission has received federal funding in the past for housing low-income families and can he further inform the House which unit of his department is responsible for housing low-income families?

ANSWER

I think the question is a little bit ridiculous inasmuch as a minister can hardly be expected to know the attitudes of all the staff and the conversations they enter into from time to time behind the counter of a department. The Housing Commission is an authority part of whose functions is to provide welfare housing. That is laid down in an ordinance and I cannot see where there should be any confusion on that matter. If she has a particular complaint, I suggest she puts it in writing to either myself or the chairman of the Housing Commission. That is obviously the logical action.

897 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has an approach been made to the appropriate authorities to have the old railway carriages and equipment, which line the Stuart Highway from Parap Road to Salonika Crossing, removed? It is a disgrace.

ANSWER

I am not aware of any particular action that has been taken to approach the Australian National Railways with a view to further cleaning up this area. I think the question would be better directed to the Chief Minister.

Mr SPEAKER: Does the honourable member for Port Darwin wish to redirect the question.

Mr HARRIS: Yes, Mr Speaker.

Mr EVERINGHAM: Well, Mr Speaker, taking up this question just as a matter of aesthetic interest, the director-general of my department is a person whose sensitivities are often offended by unseemly sights, such as all that old rolling stock out at Salonika that has been taken off its wheels and placed sideways, with "Merry Christmas" painted on it. He has suggested to me that I communicate with the Minister for Transport about this. We believe it is a rather disgraceful situation and have written to the Minister for Transport requesting him to remove the rolling stock from that position without delay.

898 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

My question concerns the extensive use of McMinns Lagoon by power boats. In view of the very detrimental effect this has had on the flora and fauna, particularly the water birds of that area, will the honourable Chief Minister consider declaring that area as a reserve?

ANSWER

As I understand it, McMinns Lagoon is privately owned although I certainly would not like to assure the House that that is the case. I believe it would be difficult in those circumstances for a reserve of any type to be placed over it. However, I will take up the matter. It would seem to me though, that there are considerable areas of reserves not too far distant from Darwin and that some consideration has to be given to areas for the recreation of the people who live in this area, especially during the wet season when it is obviously better to use McMinns Lagoon for water skiing and the like than to endanger their lives water skiing in the sea. But I will certainly take the matter up.

899 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Has he received any approach from the Darwin city council regarding a rebate of water rates for people who undertake to grass and water their nature strips and the trees they have placed on them?

ANSWER

Not specifically, Mr Speaker. However, the city council has approached me with a view to a formal meeting to discuss a whole range of matters relating to water charges and their effect on the city council, sporting organisations and public parks and reserves generally throughout Darwin. We have not set a date for this meeting. The corporation hoped to meet during this week which was inconvenient for myself and we have yet to set another date on it. I am sure the council will be bringing up the

matter that the honourable member for Nightcliff has raised.

900 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has he or any officer of his department considered the use of retycling water from the sewerage treatment plants, either in the Fannie Bay area or the sewerage ponds which are operating, with a view to using this water for grass?

ANSWER

Yes, this matter has been examined and is under examination at the present time. It is not a real priority against a lot of the other work that has to be done. However, the first one that will probably be brought forward and presented to the public is a proposition to do something with the Alice Springs sewerage ponds water. It think the Darwin one is a fair way away, as far as priority is concerned.

901 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is any consideration being given to improving the water pressure in the Darwin area, which at times is very, very low indeed?

ANSWER

This matter does strike fairly close to home because half of Ludmilla has got pretty poor water pressure and I am very well aware of the problem. I understand that steps are being taken to improve the supply, although not being technically minded I would not be able to explain those particular steps. However, if the honourable member would like to place the question on notice, I will get some details back to her.

902 Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise if an official opening will take place at the Ti-Tree School north of Alice Springs and, if so, when that official opening may occur?

ANSWER

I am unable to give any precise details in answer to the honourable member's question. I would certainly imagine that there would be some form of official opening at the Ti-Tree school in whatever use-form it finally resolves itself into, which most logically would be a training centre for Aboriginal teachers. I would certainly think that one would want to see some sort of an opening for a $2.5m Taj Mahal like that. As for the time, I could not really comment. I will, however, seek the information.

903 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware of an extremely bad stretch of road at the 14-mile, locally known as the "horror stretch", and the already repaired section just past that which has a sign marked "loose gravel"? The horror stretch also has a sign marked "traffic hazard" and these are both understatements. When does he intend to see that a contract is let for the repair of the badly surfaced existing stretch of road and the other loose gravel section which has no white line down the centre?

ANSWER

I am pretty well aware of that area because of the representations

that have been made to me by the member for Tiwi and also by very interested people who have lost their windscreens etc. I am not aware of all the fine points that the honourable member has mentioned but if we could have a talk about it a bit later in the day, I will try to see if we can improve the position for him.

904 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

The access road to the Alice Springs powerhouse is below standard. When can it be upgraded or sealed?

ANSWER

That is the 64-dollar question. Perhaps if the honourable member would like to place his question on notice, after examination of the moneys available in the pre-budget period, perhaps we will be able to give him a reply at that time.

905 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the Northern Territory government considering the introduction of noise pollution legislation in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government is considering comprehensive environmental legislation which I consider should include noise pollution control provisions. Actually, I think the cabinet submission is in course of preparation in respect of at least the broad outlines of this legislation so that the principles can be approved and further work done. Honourable members would appreciate that it is certainly not an easy task to prepare legislation which we want to be as comprehensive as possible. However, I hope to give the Assembly more details of what we are proposing to do, perhaps through the medium of the Governor-General's speech when he open this Assembly on September 8. I think it is a bit premature to give further details at this stage before cabinet considers the first submission.

906 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Flagstaff House on Myilly Point was damaged by the cyclone and is at this stage just locked up. It is a choice piece of land in Darwin and I would like to know from him, is there any indication what this piece of land will be used for in the future?

ANSWER

I my memory serves me correctly, that particular piece of land is zoned on the Darwin Town Plan as "public open space" which I am sure we would all agree would be a suitable use for the land. However, I imagine it is on a defence reserve and we will have to take the matter up with the federal Department of Defence with a view to seeing if it would be prepared to relinquish that land to the Northern Territory. I will have this matter proceeded with if it is not already under way.

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PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

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1 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

3 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

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

3. When will these staff be employed?

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

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

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

4 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

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

2. Who determines this role?

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

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

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

5 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

212 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What investigations have been made to date into the purchase of Willeroo-Scott Creek by the Northern Territory executive?

2. Has any money been spent in travel or otherwise to investigate the proposed purchase?

3. If money has been spent on travel or otherwise, on what authority was the money spent?

ANSWER

1. Comprehensive analysis by the NT Primary Producers Board and by AACM together with several officers of the Department of the Northern Territory.

2. Yes.

3. By authority of cabinet when cabinet approved an investigation by a private firm of consultants and sought other investigations from the NT Primary Producers Board.

545 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

549 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

550 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

551 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

552 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is he aware that another party was interested in purchasing the NADC properties around November-December 1977?

2. Did the Majority Leader or any other person authorised by him request the receiver of NADC to cease negotiations with another potential purchaser of the NADC properties during the trial crop period?

ANSWER

1. No.

2. No.

553 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

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

ANSWER

1. No.

2. As part of the arrangements made with the receiver the chairman was one of the signatories for cheques drawn on the special bank account established by the receiver to finance the cropping program and general management of the property.

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

572 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What is the estimated value of the Scott Creek-Willeroo project crop which was used as a lien on a loan?

2. Have the crops yet been harvested and, if not, when will they be harvested?

ANSWER

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

575 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

576 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

577 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

Yes.

578 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

No.

579 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Why was legislation not introduced into the Assembly in February to establish a statutory authority to purchase the Willeroo-Scott Creek complex?

2. Does the Northern Territory executive still intend to purchase the Willeroo-Scott Creek properties?

ANSWER

1. Low interest loans had not been secured from the receiver and consequently the executive was not in a position to proceed.

2. Negotiations have not been terminated by the NT executive.

580 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

582 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

583 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. When did the consulting firm AACM begin its investigations into the feasibility of the purchase of the Willeroo complex?

2. Has this firm actually completed its investigations and how much will it be paid for its investigations?

ANSWER

1. 18 November 1977.

2. No. $6,259 to date.

584 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

No.

585 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

586 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

No.

587 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

589 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

No.

590 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

591 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

See the answer to question No. 553.

592 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

593 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

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

ANSWER

1. Section 9(4).

2. 2 per cent.

594 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

595 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

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

596 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

This information is confidential to the board and the applicant.

597 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

Fees	$1,510.00
Travelling allowance	1,061.00
Air fares	384.80
	$2,955.80

598 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

See the answer to question No. 553.

599 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

See the answer to question No. 553.

610 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

611 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

See the answer to question No. 587.

612 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. When did the consulting firm AACM begin its investigations into the feasibility of the purchase of the Willeroo-Scott Creek complex?

2. Has this firm completed its investigations?

3. How much will this firm be paid for its investigations?

ANSWER

See the answer to question No. 583.

710 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

Yes.

711 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

712 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

Yes.

742 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

2. How many advisory staff and in what designations will be attached to the opposition from July 1, 1978?

ANSWER

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

758 Mr OLIVER to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Are any means tests applicable to Aboriginal Legal Aid Service?

ANSWER

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

826 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

827 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

(a) implement any or all of the report's nine major recommendations on the NT forestry program;

(b) form a house committee to study the implications of the report for the NT?

ANSWER

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

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

830 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

831 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Since March 1973, on which occasions were requests made by the Police Commissioner for additional police, how many were requested on each occasion and how many were approved on each occasion?

2. What will be the establishment number of police officers on 1 July 1978?

3. How many police officers are currently employed?

ANSWER

1.

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

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

2. 510.

3. 469.

837 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many positions for dentists exist at the Katherine dental clinic?

2. How many dentists were employed at the Katherine dental clinic on 1 July 1978?

3. What is the waiting time for appointments at the Katherine dental clinic?

4. How many dentists were employed at the Katherine dental clinic on 1 July 1977?

5. Has there been any increase or decrease in the waiting time for appointments at the Katherine dental clinic since 1 July 1977?

ANSWER

1. One.

2. Two.

3. Waiting time for elective treatment is 11 to 12 months, but emergency treatment is provided immediately.

4. Two - however, one of these was absent on maternity leave.

5. There has been a decrease in waiting time of between 2 and 3 months since 1 July 1977.

840 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What are the names of the three Centralian cattlemen who received between them $378,000 in loans from the Northern Territory government?

2. How much did each of the cattlemen receive and at what initial interest rate?

3. How much money is available under the Rural Adjustment Scheme?

ANSWER

1. In accordance with normal practice, this information is considered to be confidential and therefore cannot be released.

2. The three loans made were for -

$120,000 at 5% per annum initially;
$108,000 at 6% per annum initially;
$150,000 at 5% per annum initially.

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

874 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has the Northern Territory Electricity Commission spent money in taking out workers' compensation insurance privately for its employees?

2. If so, how much?

3. With whom is the insurance being taken out?

ANSWER

1. As part of the government's policy of placing each department's costs upon that department and as a commercial body, the Northern Territory Electricity Commission has, in order to protect itself and the public servants under its control, taken out an insurance cover against its liability under the Compensation (Commonwealth Government Employees) Act.

2. The premium will be approximately $315,000 payable quarterly.

3. The cover is placed with the Darwin branch of National Employers' Mutual General Insurance Association Limited.

2 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is a foreshore study being carried out in the Vesteys Beach area and, if so, by whom?

2. What is the exact area being studied, when was the study commenced and when is it expected to be completed?

3. Who made the decision to proceed with the extension to the boat ramp adjacent to the NT Water Ski Association club house on Vesteys Beach?

4. Who is the patron of the NT Water Ski Association?

5. Why was this work on the foreshore approved when consideration of other proposed works in the Vesteys Beach area is being deferred until the completion of the foreshore study?

ANSWER

1. A foreshore study is being undertaken in the Vesteys Beach area by an environmental team in the Department of Construction, Melbourne.

2. In the Vesteys Beach area, the study area includes all land on the beach side of East Point Road from (and including) Bullocky Point to the cliffs at Fannie Bay gaol. The study commenced in January and a draft text has been compiled; a final report, being basically the same as the draft, is anticipated by the Department of Lands and Housing in August or September.

3. The boat ramp adjacent to the NT Water Ski Association club house was proposed by the NT Port Authority, and is a public facility, after discussion with the Planning Branch, the Darwin City Corporation, the Department of Transport and Works, the NT Water Ski Association, Darwin Power Boat Club, Trailer Boat Club, Darwin Sailing Club and Deep Sea Fishermen's Association. The need for the facility was set

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

4. The patrons of the NT Water Ski Association are Messrs Roger Steele and Roy Barden.

5. The boat ramp project was cleared environmentally before other proposed works, as the 1976 study mentioned in paragraph 3 explicitly dealt with ramps as the constituted foreshore problems. Other proposed works are subject to the current study and proponents will be advised when the recommendations from that study are provided by the environmental team.

7 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

ANSWER

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

8 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

9 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

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

10 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

11 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

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

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

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

ANSWER

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

12 Mr DONDAS to TREASURER

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

14 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

15 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

16 Mr OLIVER to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

17 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

18 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

ANSWER

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

19 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

ANSWER

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

20 Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

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

ANSWER

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

21 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

22 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

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

23 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

24 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

ANSWER

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

25 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

26 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

ANSWER

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

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

27 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

28 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

29 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

ANSWER

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

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

30 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

ANSWER

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

31 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

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

ANSWER

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

32 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

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

ANSWER

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

33 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

35 Mr VALE to TREASURER

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

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

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

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

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

36 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

ANSWER

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

37 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

38 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

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

ANSWER

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

39 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

40 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

ANSWER

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

41 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

42 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

43 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

ANSWER

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

44 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

45 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

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

ANSWER

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

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

46 Mr PERKINS to TREASURER

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

47 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

48 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

49 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

50 Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

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

51 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

52 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

ANSWER

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

53 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

54 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

55 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

56 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

57 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

can reach any firm conclusions.

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

58 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

59 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

60 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

ANSWER

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

61 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

62 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION

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

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

67 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

68 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

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

ANSWER

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

69 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

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

70 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

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

ANSWER

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

71 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

ANSWER

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

72 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

73 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

ANSWER

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

74 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

75 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

76 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

77 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

78 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

79 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

80 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

ANSWER

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

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

81 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

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

ANSWER

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

82 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

83 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

84 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

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PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

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QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 28 NOVEMBER 1978

FROM 12 SEPTEMBER 1978

3 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

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

3. When will these staff be employed?

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

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

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

5 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

FROM 21 NOVEMBER 1978

89 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

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

90 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

92 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

94 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How much beef was imported into the Northern Territory during the years 1973-74, 1974-75, 1975-76, 1976-77?

98 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1 How many betting shops were operating in the Northern Territory on 1/10/78?

2. In what localities were these shops operating, and how many were there in each locality?

3. How many full-time employees were working in Northern Territory betting shops on 1/10/78?

4. How many part-time employees were working in Northern Territory betting shops on 1/10/78?

5. How many betting shops are now opening on fewer days and providing fewer services than was the case on 1/6/78?

6. Which services have been reduced since 1/6/78?

103 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

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

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

105 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

107 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

110 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

111 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

113 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

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

115 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What were the findings of the court in relation to an incident in April of this year involving vehicles driven by Timothy John Stuart MacFarlane and Beetaloo John?

2. What prosecutions resulted from the incident; what time elapsed before each of the defendants was brought before the court and what penalty was imposed on each defendant?

116 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

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

117 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

What investigations were made by police into clashes between groups of youths in Katherine on Saturday 4 November 1978, what facts were establish-

ed and what action resulted?

118 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

119 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

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

FROM 28 NOVEMBER 1978

120 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

149 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

150 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

151 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

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

152 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is he aware of the concern of railway workers in Alice Springs that public service conditions, including air fares, apply to them and, if so, what does he propose to do about it?

2. Why do permanent NT public servants receive air fares to the cities they left voluntarily to take up permanent positions in the NT public service?

153 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Did the NT Government permit a change in the lease purpose for the Corroboree Motel in Katherine to facilitate its sale to Aboriginal Hostels Limited?

2. If so, and in view of the needs and importance of the tourist industry, why was Aboriginal Hostels Limited not offered land on which to erect its own specially designed accommodation?

154 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

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

199 Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many public servants are employed in the Public Service Commissioner's Unit in the Northern Terrritory?

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

200 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Why have the Construction Safety Act and Regulations not yet been given a commencing date?

2. When is the Act likely to come into effect?

201 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

1 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

There are two basic problems associated with the water pressure in the Darwin area.

The first is one of limited transmission capacity which may cause rapid pressure reduction at peak periods. To alleviate this problem my department is proposing a $25,000,000, ten-year program for the provision of additional mains and pumping stations which will meet the current demand and anticipated future development. Works programmed for this financial year amount to approximately $9,000,000. However, completion times are such that all low pressures from this cause may not be eliminated until the end of the 1979 dry season.

Constant low pressure, which is the second and more common problem, is caused by corroded water supply connections and blocked meters. These can quickly be cleared by the water supply depot who give prompt attention to all such complaints.

4 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

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

2. Who determines this role?

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

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

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

ANSWER

The Darwin Community College Council has provided me with the following information:

1 & 2. The answers to these questions are covered in the Darwin Community College Ordinance No. 42 of 1973, in particular section 5.

"The functions of the College are -

to conduct an institution for the provision for Darwin and such other parts of the Northern Territory as the College considers necessary or desirable of education and training of such kinds, in such fields of science, technology, the arts, administration, commerce and other fields of knowledge or the application of knowledge, as the Council, with the approval of the Minister, determines, or as the Minister requires."

3. The Darwin Community College is answerable to the Commonwealth Minister of State for Education.

It is funded by the Commonwealth as a separate one line item within the Federal Education portfolio.

4. Cooking classes are regarded as Adult Education. All students who attend such courses are required to pay fees. As there is no Singaporean cooking this semester an example is Vietnamese cooking 6 weeks at $13.50 per course with a material charge of $7.00. These fees are set to cover the basic costs of providing Adult Education courses.

5. No, this is not a College publication and is not being printed on the College facilities.

6 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware that under Section 12(1) of the Mining (Gove Peninsula Nabalco Agreement) Ordinance, neither the Territory nor the Federal Government are permitted to impose discriminatory rates on the company or its assets?

Is he further aware that the company is charging rates in the order of $500-$700 per annum on small businesses, various residences and other properties?

Will he take action to have these excessive rates reduced?

ANSWER

It would seem that the honourable member does not know the difference between a government and a company. Nor does he seem to realise that, at the time of the ordaining of these provisions, there was no Northern Territory government. Nor, it seems, can he distinguish between the sections of an ordinance and the articles of a schedule to an ordinance.

Article 12(1) of the Schedule to the Mining (Gove Peninsula Nabalco Agreement) Ordinance is a statement of agreement that the Federal Government would not impose discriminatory rates on the company or its subsidiaries. There is no provision for the Commonwealth (or Territory government) to intervene on rate charges imposed by the Corporation.

The Nhulunbuy Corporation is a private company set up by the Nabalco Company to operate and manage the affairs of this closed town. The order of the rates charged in Nhulunbuy may appear heavier than those applying to Darwin. However, the services provided are not comparable in that the rates charged at Nhulunbuy include higher standards of services such as a bus service and a television station, not the responsibility of the Local Government Authority in Darwin.

63 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

How many organisations throughout the Northern Territory have applied for incorporation recently, but have been delayed pending the proposed change to the NT Local Government Act and the suspension of the Federal Councils and Associations Act in the Northern Territory?

What are the specific reasons why the incorporations have been delayed?

Was he aware of the delay with the incorporations at any time?

How many organisations will be affected by this delay in respect of their ability to attract government funding?

ANSWER

None.

64 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What are the details of the agreement reached between the NT government, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs concerning the implementation of local government laws covering all aspects of community development and behaviour in Aboriginal community?

Will he table the details of this agreement in the Assembly? If not, why not?

ANSWER

There is no such special agreement. The honourable member for MacDonnell should be aware of the amendments to the Local Government Ordinance introduced into this Assembly during the September sittings and will have had the opportunity of referring to the second reading speech. He should also take note of the public statements made by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and myself in reply to the misleading allegations attributed to him in the media recently.

65 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

I refer to the proposal by the North Australian Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service to establish a community-based Aboriginal Medical Service in Darwin, and ask what is the policy of the NT government regarding such medical services and funding support?

Is the NT government in favour of the establishment of Aboriginal medical services controlled and run by Aboriginal people themselves?

What support, if any, will be given by the NT government to assist with the establishment of an Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service in Darwin?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government is keen to see greater participation of Aboriginals in the administration of their health services and the Department of Health has asked Aboriginal Councils to form their own health committees for direct liaison with their local health team.

However, at the same time, the Northern Territory government wishes to ensure that the Health Department retains responsibility for the overall health status of the Territory to enable it to mount specific health programs such as those introduced in the past few years against venereal disease, leprosy, trachoma etc, and that for nutritional assistance.

The Northern Territory government is also concerned to ensure that any newly introduced Aboriginal health services meet the wishes of the Aboriginal people themselves.

In so far as funding is concerned, the government will view each new project on its own merits and within the funds available, but would be particularly concerned to obviate any major overlap of services, and seek additional funding from the Commonwealth for special projects and concepts as these are identified.

66 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the policy of the NT government in respect of the existence and development of such Aboriginal organisations as the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service, Institute for Aboriginal Development and Aboriginal Hostels Limited at Alice Springs?

Does the NT government support the purpose and functions of the above stated organisations?

ANSWER

The NT government recognises the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service, Institute for Aboriginal Development and Aboriginal Hostels Limited in much the same way as it recognises the many other organisations which have been set up and developed for various legitimate purposes throughout the Northern Territory.

All organisations except Aboriginal Hostels Limited are on the mailing list for information and other papers which go to Aboriginal organisations in the Northern Territory from time to time. Aboriginal Hostels Limited headquarters in the Northern Territory has now been included in the mailing list.

The policy of the NT government is one in which it seeks to ascertain the views of Aboriginals through the many Aboriginal organisations which appear to represent and have rapport with various groups of Aboriginals as long as these organisations maintain credibility in the eyes of Aboriginals.

Where the purpose and function of an organisation is to provide a service to Aboriginals, facilitate communication, to aid consultation and to generally aim towards the well-being of Aboriginals in the Northern Territory, the NT government does support these purposes and functions. However, in the event of any such organisations using its relationships, resources, funds whether provided by government or not, to foster particular political views without really assisting Aboriginals to understand the options and make their own choice, the NT government does not support that purpose or function. It recognises the right of political organisations to exist and to pursue their aims, but does not accept the right of an organisation set up and funded for other purposes to direct its resources to that end.

The NT government looks to the Northern Territory Branch of the National Aboriginal Conference as democratically elected representatives of Aboriginal opinion to seek the views of Aboriginals throughout the NT on many issues and initiatives which are of importance to the NT Aboriginals. It also expects the members of this conference to bring to its notice the views of Aboriginals on matters which conference members consider are important to their electors.

85 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What were the individual costs of establishing electoral offices for members of the Legislative Assembly?

2. What is the annual rental for each of the electoral offices for members of the Legislative Assembly?

The attached schedule gives details of:

(a) the individual costs of establishing electorate offices for members of the Legislative Assembly; and

(b) the annual rental for each of the electorate offices for members of the Legislative Assembly.

Electorate	(a) Cost of establishing office	(b) Annual rental	Remarks
Alice Springs) Gillen) Stuart)	474	5,880	Members share offices and facilities
Casuarina) Jingili)	180	8,800	Members share offices and facilities
Arnhem	212	Nil	Member occupies office in Aboriginal Affairs building free of charge
Barkly	180	Nil	Member occupies office in NTA building free of charge
Elsey	60	1,300	
Fannie Bay	1,564	2,600	
Ludmilla	Nil	Nil	Electorate office not available
MacDonnell	1,016	2,770	
Millner	7,563	6,500	
Nhulunbuy	960	1,275	
Nightcliff	3,375	4,160	
Port Darwin	180	4,160	
Sanderson	180	4,680	
Stuart Park	Nil	Nil	Member intends to share office with member for Port Darwin
Tiwi	Nil	Nil	Member has her office in a caravan in the Howard Springs shopping centre
Victoria River	Nil	2,040	

NOTE: The majority of furniture and various office machines were provided from departmental stock, and therefore have not been included in the above schedule.

86 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Who authorised the fluoridation scheme for Katherine and were the townspeople consulted?

ANSWER

Fluoridation of the Katherine water supply was proposed by the Department of Health and originally put on the draft works program by the Department of the Northern Territory. The project has now been taken

over by the Northern Territory government which fully supports it in view of the benefits to health it will bring.

No formal consultations with the townspeople have been held. However, the staff of the Department of Health dental clinic in Katherine are willing to provide information and answer any questions that residents may have on the subject.

87 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

When will holiday pay due to employees at Scott Creek-Willeroo for the four months period when the Primary Producers Board was in control be apid?

Why has the Primary Producers Board furnished group certificates to some former employees at Scott Creek and not others?

ANSWER

NADC (Receiver appointed) have been requested to make payments to employees for holiday pay in respect of the period 3 December 1977 to 30 March 1978, without prejudice to the disputed control of the property at that time. The co-operation of the Receiver has been sought to make the payments from the Scott Creek Farm Account.

Group certificates have been forwarded to all employees where addresses were known. The balance has been sent to the Deputy Commissioner of Taxation in accordance with the requirements laid down by the Australian Taxation Office.

88 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has he received any complaint relating to the standard of service since the telephone exchange in Katherine has been moved to Darwin?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any complaints relating to the standard of service since the telephone exchange facilities in Katherine were removed to Darwin.

The Department of Transport and Works Area Manager in Katherine (Mr Kevin Jordon) has advised that the existing service is quite satisfactory with STD facilities available and in discussions he has had with local business people he has not heard of any complaints.

He did mention that there was a minimal delay on the radio/telephone service as this link now requires dialling a certain number through the Darwin exchange but was no cause for real complaint.

91 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it correct that the recruiting of teaching assistants will be restrained following the Northern Territory government take-over of the Education Department in July 1979?

ANSWER

The NT division of the Department of Education is unaware of any impending restraint on the recruiting of teaching assistants after 1 July 1979 and nor is the Northern Territory government.

93 Mr VALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

(a) What is the current value of library books held?

(b) What is the present pupil enrolment?

In the following schools in Central Australia:

Alice Springs High School
Alice Springs School of Air
Alice Springs Special School
Amoonguna School
Areyonga School
Bradshaw Primary School
Braitling School
Docker River School
Gillen Primary School
Haasts Bluff School
Iwuptaka School
Maryvale School
Mbunghara School
Mt Allen School
Mt Ebenezer School
Napperby School
Papunya School
Ross Park Primary School
Ti-Tree School
Traeger Park Primary School
Utopia School
Yuendumu School
OLSH College
Hermannsburg School
Santa Teresa School
Ida Standley Pre-School
Nathalie Gorey Pre-School
Rona Glynn Pre-School
Teppa Hill Pre-School

ANSWER

The Commonwealth Department of Education has provided the following information in response to the honourable member's question:

No figures are available regarding the current value of library books held by any school in the Northern Territory.

The only figures held by this department are the amounts given to the schools as specific library grants, and this would give no indication of (a) funds contributed by parents (b) depreciation of individual books (c) book losses, outdated books.

The enrolments (as at the end of September for the schools listed are shown as follows:

Alice Springs High School	946	Napperby	23
Alice Springs School of Air	105	Papunya	161
Alice Springs Special School	10	Ross Park	372
Amoonguna	65	Ti-Tree	107
Areyonga	41	Traeger Park	344
Bradshaw Primary (inc. 99 pre-)	707	Utopia	35
		Yuendumu	193
Braitling	290	OLSH College	474
Docker River	114	Hermannsburg	199
Gillen Primary (inc. 66 pre-)	623	Santa Teresa	181
		Ida Standley Pre-School	52
Haasts Bluff	24	Nathalie Gorey Pre-School	44
Iwupataka	38	Rona Glynn Pre-School	43
Maryvale	37	Teppa Hill Pre-School	71
Mbunghara	20	Mt Allen	16
Mt Ebenezer	21		

95 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Does South Australia impose a levy on Northern Territory cattle entering that state?

ANSWER

The SA Cattle Compensation Act 1939-1974 imposes a stamp duty on all cattle sold in that state. The duty varies according to the sale price, ranging from a minimum of $0.05 to a maximum of $0.50 per beast. I understand the duty so collected is used to compensate owners for loss caused through condemnations of cattle suffering specified diseases. Thus Territory cattle transported to that state for sale or slaughter are subject to the duty but not those for agistment.

96 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it a fact that Queensland veterinary requirements are designed to protect Queensland from competition from Northern Territory cattle?

ANSWER

I am aware that there has been some tightening of requirements by Queensland in respect of brucellosis and tuberculosis, but these were inevitable and my officers have told Territory pastoralists of this eventuality.

The general provisions of the Queensland Stock Act 1915-1976 are not inconsistent with those of our Stock Diseases Ordinance or indeed similar enactments in other states. Their basic purpose is to protect the health of stock within their borders.

97 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many Housing Commission houses in the Millner electorate have not been upgraded since the cyclone?

2. When will the work commence on each Housing Commission home in the Millner electorate which has not yet been upgraded?

ANSWER

1. A total of 54 Housing Commission houses required restoration and upgrading in the Millner electorate at 8 November 1978.

2. Of these 54 houses not yet restored, 40 are included in current contracts and will be completed by April 1979. The remaining group of 14 will go to tender following this wet season and will be completed by 30 June 1979.

   The completion of these groups will mark the end of a total restoration program commenced by the Housing Commission in August 1975, since which time 844 houses will have been restored and upgraded in addition to a vigorous new buildings program in all centres. The management and staff of the Commission deserve commendation on their achievement.

99 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

(a) Is there a proposal within the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission to establish a wildlife park at Fogg Dam near Darwin?

(b) If there is such a proposal, when is the proposal likely to be implemented?

(c) If there is such a proposal, is it the intention that the present wildlife collection which is accommodated at Yarrawonga Park be transferred to Fogg Dam?

ANSWER

(a) The Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission is investigating the suitability of Fogg Dam as well as other areas in the vicinity of Darwin for viewing of native fauna under open range conditions.

(b) A date for the implementation of the program cannot be given as there is no guarantee that Fogg Dam will be the final area selected and there are other intests to be considered in the Fogg Dam area.

(c) The present wildlife collection at Yarrawonga Zoo would not necessarily be transferred to Fogg Dam. In fact, many of the exhibits might not survive under open range conditions after being in captivity. Yarrawonga Park has restrictions in so far as development is concerned because of its small area.

100 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How many of each of the following types of vehicles have been transferred from the Australian government to the Northern Territory government:

(a) passenger sedans;

(b) utilities; and

(c) four-wheel drive vehicles?

ANSWER

I regret that at this stage I can only provide accurate information in respect of the following:

	Passenger Sedans	Utilities Panel Vans	4WD Vehicles Exc. Trucks
Transport and Works	144	280	134
Industrial Development	22	58	81
NT Electricity Commission	54	61	14
Bushfire Council	1	2	4
	221	401	233

Government policy is that all departments and authorities are authorised to control and operate their own vehicle fleets, and in order to provide the full information requested, it will be necessary to seek similar data from other NT government departments and authorities for vehicles operating under their respective control.

101 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What factors are taken into consideration in determining which employees of the Northern Territory Public Service are permitted to garage government-owned vehicles at their homes?

2. As at 30 September 1978 how many government-owned passenger sedans, utilities and four-wheel drive vehicles were garaged at employee's homes?

3. What methods are used to ensure that government-owned vehicles that are garaged at employees' homes are not used by employees and members of their families for purposes unrelated to the discharge of the employees' duties?

ANSWER

1. On 26 September 1978, I requested the Public Service Commissioner in conjunction with the Acting Secretary of the Department of Transport and Works to review the home garaging of government vehicles to ensure that there is consistency of approach across the service. This review has now been commenced. Current guidelines on home garaging approvals are attached and the appropriateness of these will be examined in the course of the review.

2. Information on the number of approvals given for home garaging of government vehicles is currently being gathered as part of the above-mentioned review.

3. Should the review reveal that current procedures for oversight of home garaging by departmental heads is inadequate, more stringent procedures will be instituted.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS

HOME GARAGING GUIDELINES

1. Home garaging approval will be at the discretion of the Departmental Head for Chief Executive Officers of a prescribed authority.

2. Home garaging is applicable in the following circumstances:

   (a) Departmental Heads and Chief Executive Officers of prescribed authorities.

   (b) For those senior staff who by virtue of their duties are required or expected to work considerable periods outside of normal working hours, at which times regular public transport is not available.

   (c) For those staff employed in an operational capacity who are on call outside of normal working hours, and to whom government transport is essential to respond effectively to the out-of-normal-hours call to duty. (Examples are staff rostered to attend to fault calls; restoration of essential services; etc).

   (d) For those staff who are called upon to perform duties requiring the use of official transport, and where economics of travelling time and distance are relevant factors. (These approvals would be usually of short term duration).

   Examples are:

   (i) Work which commences prior to or after normal office hours (such as supervision of contractors).

   (ii) The need to undertake official business at a location which is significantly closer to the employee's residence than to his normal place of employment, that home garaging achieves definite economics.

3. Drivers of vehicles granted home garaging approval must comply with the following:

   (a) be NT licensed drivers;

   (b) be responsible for the safe keeping and security of the vehicle under their control;

   (c) ensure the vehicle is used only for approved official business in accordance with the purpose for which home garaging is approved, including carriage of only authorised passengers on official business;

   (d) at all times use the vehicle in his charge in a proper manner expected of an employee of the NT government, and in accordance with NT traffic regulations.

4. Departmental heads should examine requests for home garaging on their merits (as opposed to a "blanket" approval of a class or group of employees), with approvals being limited to a specified period, at the end of which the approval is subject to review. (For permanent home garaging, the suggested period for review would be six or twelve months. For short term approvals, such as those approved under category 2(d) a specific approval period should be stated).

5. Departmental heads should examine the alternative of employees being reimbursed for the cost of using his-her private vehicle for official business, where such an arrangement is appropriate and mutually acceptable to both the department and the employee (e.g. applicable to category 2(d) situations).

102 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many and on what occasions has the Town Planning Board considered an application under section 38A of the Town Planning Ordinance to rezone lot 666 Town of Darwin?

2. Has the Town Planning Board or the Planning Unit sought legal advice on the application made pursuant to section 38A of that Ordinance to rezone lot 666 Town of Darwin? If so, on what date was such legal advice sought?

3. Has the Town Planning Board or the Planning Unit received the legal advice referred to above? If so, on what date was such legal advice received?

ANSWER

1. The Northern Territory Town Planning Board has considered applications under section 38A of the Town Planning Act to rezone lot 666 Town of Darwin on four (4) occasions.

2. The Planning Branch has sought legal advice on the application referred to above on one (1) occasion:

   (a) 18 January 1978.

3. The Planning Branch has received the legal advice referred to above, on 20 June 1978, after the request had been mislaid.

104 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Which heads of departments are residents of houses provided by the Northern Territory government?

ANSWER

M.R. Finger	Director-General
N.J. Campbell	Public Service Commissioner
A. Ashley	Under-Treasurer
R. McHenry	Secretary, Department of Community Development
C. Adams	Secretary, Department of Industrial Development
M. Dryer	Commissioner, Electricity Commission
R. McAulay	Commissioner of Police.

106 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What were the circumstances surrounding the refusal or inability of the Bush Fires Council to assist Mr Ken Hammer of Bauhinia Downs Station, Borroloola, in his request for help early in October 1978?

ANSWER

All possible assistance to Mr Hammer was given. On Monday evening of 9 October 1978 the Fire Control Officer of the Northern Region, W. Luff, was advised that Bauhinia Station had requested assistance for a fire. The Fire Control Officer normally responsible was attending a fire on Waterloo Station. Mr Luff then:

(a) contacted Mr Hammer and asked him to check with Tanumbirini for grader assistance at the Bush Fire Council's expense;

(b) arranged for Hayfield Station's fire trailer to be sent. The trailer was at Daly Waters and the Daly Water policeman offered to leave with it at 6 am Tuesday, 10 October. Mr Hammer refused this offer saying the fire could not be controlled with water;

(c) found that the nearest available Katherine area grader was on the Borroloola road - the exact position could not be ascertained until Tuesday morning (10 October).

The only available aircraft came from Katherine at 9.30 next morning, collected Mr Luff and a mechanic, refuelled at Katherine and arrived at Bauhinia at midday. Mr Hammer stated his only concern was the 35 square km area between Bauhinia and Tawallah Creeks.

After landing the situation was discussed. In the presence of the mechanic Mr Luff asked Mr Hammer what the outcome of his request for grader assistance from Tanumbirini was. Mr Hammer replied that he hadn't bothered.

Mr Luff contacted the McArthur River Mines and was told their grader and low loader were out of commission. Their offer of manpower and vehicle assistance was refused by Mr Hammer.

The only choice then was the grader on the Borroloola road. This was between Daly Waters and Cooee Hills. It would have to be carried by low loader to within 80 km of the fire. Because of a brake problem, the low loader could not leave until 11 am on Wednesday (11 October). It could not travel at night and therefore the grader could not be delivered at the Balbirini Work Camp until Thursday (12 October).

The grader would have had to travel under its own power the remaining 80 km and as it also could not travel at night, it would not arrive until late Friday morning at the fire.

The total cost of the grader operation would have been about $8,000 and as, with the prevailing weather conditions, it was extremely unlikely that they would be in time to save any of the country Mr Hammer wished to preserve, the attempt was abandoned and Mr Hammer was with regret advised accordingly.

108 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Since its inception, how much has the Northern Territory Electricity Commission spent on advertising for positions in the Commission?

ANSWER

Since its inception on 1 July 1978, the NTEC has spent a sum of $1,881.56 on advertising positions. Accounts for a further $542.46 have been received but not yet paid. Taken altogether, this amounts to an expenditure of $2,424.02.

109 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What was the expenditure by the Northern Territory government on the official opening of the Legislative Assembly and functions and incidental matters related to it?

ANSWER

The direct expenditure incurred by the Department of the Chief Minister on the official opening of the Legislative Assembly was as follows:

Official Car Hire	$	4,112.63
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Dinner	$	3,785.20
Governor General and Official Party excursion on the Adelaide River	$	700.00
Governor General and Official Party attendance at the YWCA International Night	$	150.00
Accommodation Expenses Bamyili Dancers	$	120.96
Overtime Payment to government employees	$	2,381.65
TOTAL	$	11,250.44

112 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

(a) Has the position of Chief Inspector of Scaffolding for the Northern Territory been recently advertised?

(b) When did applications close?

(c) Has an appointment been made?

(d) What are the qualifications of the appointee?

ANSWER

(a) There is no position of Chief Inspector but only one of Senior Inspector of Scaffolding. That position has been advertised.

(b) 7 October 1978.

(c) A selection has been made.

(d) Technical Qualifications are:

- Trade Certificate in Joinery and Cabinet making
- Two years City and Guild Building Trade Certificates
- Occupational Safety Certificate
- Welding Certificate, WA Institute of Technology
- WA Shot fire Certificate
- Compressed Air Division Certificate to 200 ft
- Rescue Instructors Certificate of Emergency Services

Experience

- 14 years experience in the construction industry
- 6 years Construction Safety Inspector in WA.

114 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

(a) Has a statement of receipts and expenditure in respect of the public accounts during the September 1978 quarter been published in the Gazette?

(b) If so, on what date?

(c) If not, when does the Treasurer expect to so publish?

ANSWER

(a) A statement of receipts and expenditure in respect of the public accounts during the September 1978 quarter has not yet been published in the Gazette.

(b) Answer to (a) applies.

(c) The statement is to be published in the Government Gazette on 1 December 1978.

121 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

I would like to know, why tenders were not called for the purchase of a shark cat for the Northern Territory Emergency Services by the Northern Territory government?

ANSWER

I noticed a part in the Darwin Star last week about the Northern Territory Government Emergency Services not purchasing this shark cat through local suppliers or not calling tenders for which local suppliers could have put in a bid. I caused inquiries to be made within my department and as a result within a day or so of the article appearing in the paper, I wrote this letter to Mr John Atkinson who, the Darwin Star claimed, was the aggrieved party.

I refer to my letter of 7 November in which I advised you that I would ascertain the reasons why the shark cat vessel for Emergency Services was purchased direct from the manufacturer. The decision to purchase the shark cat type vessel was based on advice from sea rescue organisations in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia, as well as local boat dealers and enthusiasts who generally agreed that the shark cat was the most suitable vessel within its price range for the required purposes although naturally it did have some limitations.

The shark cat organisation at Labrador, Queensland was contacted and they indicated that there was no shark cat agency in the Northern Territory. Some preliminary arrangements were then made for the purchase of the vessel from the shark cat organisation in Queensland. Advice was then received that a local dealer was acting on behalf of the Western Australian agent. This aspect was raised with the headquarters of the shark cat organisation who indicated that any arrangement of this nature was improper as far as they were concerned and that the Western Australian agency was limited to activities in Western Australia. They further indicated that they proposed in the future to take steps to establish an agency in the Northern Territory. Thus our decision to purchase direct from the shark cat organisation in Queensland was based on official advice that there was no accredited agent for shark cat in the Northern Territory.

I am advised that it is only in the last few weeks that you have made representations to the shark cat organisation to obtain an agency for the Northern Territory. I can give you every assurance that it is the policy of my government to buy locally if at all possible but I am sure you will also appreciate that, as a responsible government, we must negotiate with accredited agencies, particularly where no local agency exists. I must add that I was disappointed to read in the Star of 16 November a reference to the fact that you had referred the matter to Creed Lovegrove and Martyn Finger and that your inquiries had been ignored. Martyn Finger informs me that he rang you on Tuesday 14 November when he received a report on the matter and explained the above position to you and you indicated your appreciation of this.

122 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware that King Ranch is selling all its Australian properties and has recently sold Brunette Downs Station on the Barkly to Tancred, the owners of the Mount Isa Meatworks. If he is so aware, can he explain to the Assembly the impact that this sale will have on the supply of late cattle to the Katherine Meatworks? If he is not aware of this sale, will he make investigations and report back to the Assembly?

ANSWER

The Leader of the Opposition has been misinformed. The sale has not taken place. I understand that last week, representatives of Tancred were at Brunette Downs. In fact, the manager of Brunette Downs was in Darwin last week and told me that he was expecting the Tancred people up there. If there was a sale it would be detrimental to the Northern Territory and certainly detrimental to the plans of this government to support industry, particularly in Tennant Creek. There would be no flow of cattle coming to Katherine abattoirs or to the proposed Tennant Creek abattoirs. We would view it with extreme disfavour if this sale took place. I have not yet consulted my colleagues as to what we may do but certainly we will be taking strong action to avoid that sort of a sale.

123 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

At the moment charitable organisations are forced to pay commercial rates for electricity consumption. Will any arrangements be made to allow them some kind of concession?

ANSWER

This is a fairly difficult proposition. As you know, the Electricity Commission is running at a $24m loss and we are trying to see if we can help associations. If a subsidy is granted to associations, that would be a form of tax on the public at large. There is only one state in Australia that provides a subsidy. Victoria provides a 15% subsidy to approved associations. These associations are approved by either a community or welfare body in Victoria. The government has not yet decided what it is likely to do but I think it is not in my bag to decide which associations should get a subsidy. We are certainly looking at the matter because the electricity charges have been increased and this matter has been of some concern.

124 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

In line with his determination to promote local employment will the Chief Minister take steps to ensure that, as far as possible, liquidations of Territory companies are done by Territory liquidators?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would suggest that the Leader of the Opposition might more properly take this matter up with the Chief Judge of the Northern Territory Supreme Court. The Northern Territory Supreme Court is constituted under a federal act and the judiciary is independent. Liquidators of companies are appointed by the Supreme Court. They are firstly appointed as company liquidators and then, for each particular liquidation, the judge who makes the liquidation or receivership order as the case may be, appoints a specific liquidator who is on a list approved by the Supreme Court. It is not a matter in which the Executive can interfere. Solicitors involved in the liquidations generally select the liquidator and nominate him to the Supreme Court. I suggest perhaps that the solicitors might perhaps take the attitude that they should employ Northern Territory liquidators. It is certainly not something on which the government can direct them.

125 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has he given consideration to the reintroduction of the bus service from Darwin to Humpty Doo?

ANSWER

Consideration has been given to the reintroduction of this service. It was very unprofitable in the past. To reintroduce this service would cost $120,000 per annum. The matter is under investigation by an officer from the Victorian Transport Regulation Board who is advising me on bus services at this time. The matter will go before Cabinet in the next couple of months.

126 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the proposed Coconut Grove-Ludmilla-Fannie Bay connector road yet been surveyed? If not, can the Minister explain why $1.5m was allocated for a road in 1978/1979 public works budget which has not yet been surveyed and which is unlikely to be commenced this financial year. If it has been surveyed, can he explain why plans have not been displayed for the benefit of the public when the plans for roadworks not provided for in the budget have been displayed?

ANSWER

Surveys have been carried out from aerial photographs but the on-ground survey investigation has not taken place yet. We are currently dealing with the people in that area who have some objections to the road and those discussions are continuing. Obviously, if a budget item was included it would be on the expectation of the work being carried out and the money being spent.

127 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What will be the Northern Territory government's attitude towards problems associated with alcoholism once it takes over the Department of Health in January?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Department of Health, as it will be after 1 January, will be taking a much more active role in the alcohol education and treatment field. As honourable members would be aware, the Commonwealth and the states have a financial agreement whereby the Commonwealth contributes to the states for alcohol education programs and rehabilitation. Unfortunately, the Northern Territory has never been included in these grants and the first exercise that we have ever gone into between ourselves and the Commonwealth is to seek funds from the Commonwealth on the same basis as they are granted to the states. Having got the funds, I believe the department will then become more heavily involved in roles that state health departments now play in the states in providing services relating to alcohol education and rehabilitation.

128 Mr ISAACS to the TREASURER

What reasons did the government have for leasing computer equipment when it is cheaper these days to purchase such equipment?

ANSWER

The Leader of the Opposition has made somewhat of an overstatement to say blatantly that it is cheaper to purchase computer equipment than it is to lease it. That depends on the computer equipment that you are talking about. It might be a desk model or a model that fits into a house. It depends on the brand and where they are made and whether you buy new

computers or, as is often the case these days, secondhand computers which can be purchased very economically. I just do not accept the statement by the Leader of the Opposition as being rational.

129 Mrs LAWRIE to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

In November 1974, an ordinance was passed which would have given relief to people insured with a company such as Northumberland which went bankrupt. Although it was approved by the federal government, the legislation has not received assent. When is it likely that similar legislation will be reintroduced to this House to afford relief to these people who have been awarded damages and cannot receive any compensation?

ANSWER

I sponsored the bill that was passed through the House in 1974. My estimate at the time was that it would take a quarter of a million dollars to indemnify the people affected by the collapse of the Northumberland Insurance Company and one other company concerned.

The problem is being looked at by the Department of Law at the moment. It is a problem because the Northern Territory government was not created at the time these insurance companies collapsed. I have asked the department to advise me whether firstly we can indemnify people in respect of an occurrence that happened before the government was even in existence and secondly - and this may be of interest to the Leader of the Opposition who is often making profound statements on the matter of insurance - the responsibility for insurance has not been delegated to the Northern Territory government under the regulations made pursuant to section 35 of the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act. I am personally of the opinion that, as this is third-party insurance, and that is an adjunct to the field of transport, we should be able to do something about it. But it is a question for legal interpretation, Mr Speaker, and when these two questions have been considered by the Department of Law, I have asked it, in consultation with the Department of Transport and Works, to prepare a submission to the Northern Territory Cabinet making recommendations as to the various options that would be available to us if we can first surmount those two hurdles.

At the same time, Mr Speaker, I have been corresponding with the Prime Minister and the Treasurer seeking the delegation to the Northern Territory government of powers, normal state-like powers, in respect of the insurance and banking fields, and I will continue to maintain pressure on the federal government in that regard.

130 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

How many local professional fishermen have accepted an NT Fisheries Department's invitation to attend a three-day course on the use of technologies, such as echo-sounding and radar? I believe the course started today.

ANSWER

I understand the course was to accommodate 30 people; just exactly how many attended I could not be sure. I think the course was almost fully subscribed. I can find out and report back to him later.

131 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Has any decision yet been made as to the sites in Darwin and Alice Springs in respect to which it is proposed to issue casino licences?

ANSWER

In regard to this matter, as this House has been advised before, the negotiations with various applicants for casino licences in Darwin and Alice Springs have been kept on the strictest confidentiality and this will remain so until such time as public announcements are made, hopefully in the near future, outlining the entire proposals. Until such time as that is made, I am not prepared to answer questions on the subject.

132 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

At this stage is there any indication as to what attitude will be taken by the Northern Territory government towards vocational training when education becomes a responsibility of the Northern Territory government in July?

ANSWER

The present position is that there are two separate areas of vocational training in the Northern Territory. Firstly, there is vocational training for Aboriginal students and of course, secondly, vocational training is being provided for the community at large. Certainly, it is an area that this government is very keen to get itself involved in in a much more active way than is perhaps being done at the moment.

In respect of Aboriginal students, Mr Speaker, the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations has primary responsibility under the federal government for the provision of vocational training for Aboriginal children - dealing with that one first. Of course it would be well known that the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations is not in the business of employing teachers. Therefore it uses the Darwin Community College as an agent to carry out its programs. The Darwin Community College, of course, is also very heavily involved at the moment - within the limits of its resources - in vocational training for the community at large in Darwin and around the Northern Territory generally.

The Department of Education also has, within its schools, quite sophisticated equipment which can be well used in the field of vocational training, by way of its workshops, wood-working rooms, metal shops and so on. So the whole area needs to be examined, I think, in light of the resources available to the Department of Education and the Darwin Community College. I might also add that the annexe to that is of course the Alice Springs Community College which is also involved in the training of young people in vocational areas.

In addition, Mr Speaker, I have recently approved on behalf of the Northern Territory government the establishment of a vocational training centre at Borroloola, the first of its type in the Northern Territory and one which we hope will be in operation by mid next year, to tie in with the Borroloola community, particularly young Aboriginal people and the hopeful expectation of the MacArthur River mining project getting off the ground. It is the first of its kind. It is a departmentally-based exercise. It is amazing how cheaply it looks like it can be done by the use of demountables and with a minimum number of staff.

You, Mr Speaker, would be very well aware of the requirement in Katherine for a rural training college, or what was previously referred to as a rural training college. I have requested the Director of Education to refer to it in future, rather than a college, as a rural education centre for Katherine. Mr Speaker, you will be pleased to know that that will be operational by the beginning of the school year in 1979. The final plans have been put into operation. I am informed there is sufficient funds within the Department of Education to get that off the ground and get it operational early next year and, of course, the Northern Territory government upon the assumption of responsibility for education will be pursuing that particular rural education resource centre, if you like, and of course will be pursuing further the subject of vocational training generally.

133 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he explain to the Assembly what has happened to the moneys allocated this year for purchases of ADP equipment by open tender? Has the tender been let? If not, why not?

ANSWER

I am not fully briefed on the subject matter. I will find an answer and provide him with it later in the day.

134 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has the final decision been made as to the custody of the remains of the Kookaburra aircraft and, if so, has the minister approved the allocation of funds to allow for the preservation and display of those remains in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

By Northern Territory statute, the remains of the Kookaburra - and by golly they are only remains, that is all they are - are vested in the Museums and Art Galleries Board with the Northern Territory. It is proposed at this stage that a diorama depicting the site at which the Kookaburra was discovered, 70 years after the tragedy, will be set up by the Museums and Art Galleries Board of the Northern Territory and in the interim that that will be displayed on their behalf by the Central Australian Aviation Museum Incorporated.

Let me say, Mr Speaker, and put to rest the nonsense which has been spoken about the restoration of the Kookaburra and the suggestions by Mr Smith - and, incidentally, I would like to put on public record the thanks of the Northern Territory for that man going to all the trouble and expense he did to relocate the remains of the Kookaburra and his contribution, so that this part of Northern Territory history be properly recognised. However, Mr Speaker, let us not dismiss from our minds any question that the propellor was eaten by white ants. Let us dismiss from our minds, Mr Speaker, any question of the restoration of what was once an aircraft. If we were to embark upon a program of restoration in inverted commas, Mr Speaker, of course all we would be doing is building a replica of a Westland Widgeon aircraft. You would have nothing of the original Kookaburra left, other than some engine cowlings, a little bit of aluminium aileron, some very rusted, burnt-out wire and swivel joints and a very rusted-out engine block, and I think you would be doing a disservice to history if in fact a replica of the Westland Widgeon type aircraft was built and these bits and pieces installed in it. I think it is a far more fitting memorial to those brave men who lost their lives in search of other brave men for a properly constructed diorama depicting the exact way

in which this aircraft's remains were found out in the Tanami Desert to be displayed for people who have an interest in history.

135 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Might I ask a supplementary question. I think the minister was carried away by his own eloquence and perhaps neglected to answer the second part of the question: has the minister approved the allocation of funds for the preservation and display of the remains?

ANSWER

The honourable member is quite right. I overlooked to answer that part of the question. The provision of funds for the preparation of the diorama to display the remains of the Kookaburra is the responsibility of the Northern Territory Museums and Art Galleries Board from within its own budget. It has money set aside for the purpose of acquisition, for the purpose of research and for other purposes quite akin to this particular proposal. I would think that, because it is an unexpected expenditure which the Museum and Art Galleries Board will be faced with - and I really cannot give an estimate but I will try to; I would think probably in the order of $20,000 to do it properly because setting up a diorama can be expensive - it is normal government practice that when an organisation runs into unexpected expenditure of this type, it is open to it to come back at supplementary estimates time and make a bid for further funds if this interferes with its normal program of acquisitions.

136 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When will stage 2 of the Howard Springs school be finished and when will it be ready to take in pupils?

ANSWER

I am informed by the Department of Ecuation and the Department of Construction that the building is presently 45% complete, that it has fallen slightly behind the original schedule - it was supposed to be ready for occupation by the students at Howard Springs School at the beginning of the school year. It now looks as if the completion date will be some time in February. However, I am also informed by the Department of Construction that they are happy with progress on the building having regard to the particular circumstances which have arisen.

137 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he tell us what the estimated cost of remodelling Lyons Cottage for use by the National Trust and the Roval Australian Institute of Architects?

ANSWER

No. I cannot give a precise answer to that question. I believe I have a paper from Mr Forrester, the director, on my desk at the moment. I have not had a chance to look at it. I would hope to be able to get that information back to the honourable member late in the day.

138 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can the minister inform the House of the progress in preparation for the transfer of health powers to the Northern Territory government on 1 January?

ANSWER

I can inform the honourable member - he gave me notice of this question because there is a bit of detail involved in it - and I will be pleased to advise the House of the work that is being done.

The transfer of health to the Northern Territory government on 1 January involves seven major tasks. I will mention each of these tasks in turn and then briefly indicate the progress that has been made in each area.

The first section is the change in legislation. The necessary amendments to legislation have been isolated and it is hoped that this will be put through this session of the Assembly.

Mr ISAACS (Opposition Leader): A point of order, Mr Speaker. The minister is clearly abusing question time. If he wishes to make a ministerial statement - and I believe one is timely - then he certainly should do so and we will grant him leave. But question time is not the appropriate time for him to deliver such a statement.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr TUXWORTH: Mr Speaker, the second point relates to the reorganisation of the departmental structure and briefly this has been very nearly completed in conjunction with the Northern Territory Public Service Commissioner. The definition of the residual Commonwealth units to deal with Commonwealth health matters such as quarantine, the National Acoustics Laboratory and immunisations and the residual Commonwealth unit has been agreed and the appointment of a new Commonwealth Director of Health has been initiated.

The fourth area of concern is for information to staff whether they are to transfer to the Northern Territory Public Service or to remain with the Commonwealth residual unit. Letters have been prepared for some 2,500 staff members and are about to be posted.

The fifth task to be undertaken was the reorganisation of the accounting system to match the new system of funding. The accounting system has been modified to suit future funding requirements.

The sixth point concerns negotiations with the Commonwealth with respect to future funding. The National Health Act has been amended to allow the hospital cost-sharing to apply to the Northern Territory. A draft agreement between the Northern Territory government and the Commonwealth for hospital cost-sharing has been agreed at officer level. Copies of the final draft have been sent to myself and the Treasurer for final agreement. Talks relating to actual cost-sharing are to take place later this month to be followed by discussions concerning community health service grants and that for the school dental service. Talks have already been held with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in connection with the level of funding to be expected from that department.

Finally, a case to obtain funds from the Federal Grants Commission and a paper addressed to the Grants Commission is in the process of preparation. It has been agreed with Mr Justice Else-Mitchell that the paper should be ready for presentation to the commission by the end of February 1979.

139 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can the Minister tell the Assembly whether or not a lease agreement has yet been signed between the Northern Territory Port Authority and V.B. Perkins?

ANSWER

No.

140 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

At the previous session of the Assembly, he indicated that the Juvenile Detention Centre at Berrimah would not be used for that purpose. Could he now indicate the purpose to which it will be put?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Youth Hostels organisation has made an application through the Chief Minister to myself for the use of the area. This application is being examined at the moment and I believe it will be viewed favourably by the government.

141 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

On 2 March this year, I asked question 292 regarding the future of the cafeteria in Block 8. Now that the Northern Territory government is in occupation of Block 8, what is the future of the now disused cafeteria?

ANSWER

This is "Big Al's" cafeteria and I am used to the honourable member for Casuarina asking this question rather than the honourable member for Tiwi. Whilst the Northern Territory government has taken up occupation of part of Block 8 at the present time, the building is still in the hands of the contractors A.V. Jennings. I understand the ground floor which contains the cafeteria area will be refurbished as a cafeteria in part. There is also a theatrette or something down there that will be turned into a library for all members of the Assembly. I am not sure but I think it is a library. When it is rebuilt as a cafeteria, presumably it will be turned out for tender. I should imagine that, within the next 6 months or so, the place known as "Big Al's" should be back in business.

142 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What progress has been made by Nabalco in its smelter feasibility study? Could he also inform us of the nature, quantity and quality of the Gove coal deposits?

ANSWER

On the first question, I would point out that a feasibility study on the siting of a refinery in the Northern Territory is still underway. My understanding is that Nabalco will not have a final report until March next year. In discussions that I have had with the company, they have indicated that the most important criterion for the provision of a smelter anywhere is the cost of electricity. They had selected 4 or 5 sites, Mr Speaker. There were several on the east coast of Australia, one at Gove, one in South-east Asia and one in Scandinavia. For convenience and simplicity, the company would very much like to have the smelter in the Northern Territory. However, for cost reasons and because we do not have a natural electricity resource as is commonplace on the east coast, the company may be forced to consider placing the smelter on the east coast. I would point out that there are always ways of encouraging people to establish an industry within a territory or state that has a particular interest in the industry but, with an exercise such as this, it could be that the company would prefer not to do anything at all rather than be forced into building in the Northern Territory and having to put up with an electricity cost that would make the whole project uneconomic.

The honourable member also asked a question relating to the coal deposits on the Gove Peninsula. Coal was discovered many years ago in various geophysical and drilling exercises that were conducted by private companies, by the government and the DMR. There was not a great deal of attention paid to the coal at the time because it was not an economic prospect from the point of view of either local consumption or of export. Similar indications of coal were found in the Port Keats area and that is another story.

The establishment of coal reserves at the Gove Peninsula would be most important in the assessment of a smelter refinery being established in the Northern Territory. I do not think it is a matter of saying that the refinery should go on the Gove Peninsula because that is where the coal is; it is very simply a fact that we have two established coal deposits. The value and the worth of the deposits in terms of generating power has not yet been established and a great deal of work has to be done before any further announcement or an assessment can be made on these particular deposits.

143 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it compulsory for taxis in the Northern Territory to have comprehensive insurance and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

I am not too sure whether it is compulsory or not. I would have to find out and let the honourable member know later.

144 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When the barytes mine at Dorisvale is in full production and the loaded trucks are travelling on the Stuart Highway, will the minister give consideration to making or planning a lay-by at the dangerous 14 mile hill so that ordinary traffic at peak periods can bypass the slow moving trucks?

ANSWER

This section of the road will be advertised for tender in February and there will be a lot of realigning and levelling off at that time. Certainly, we will take into account the needs of a slow moving traffic lane. I understand that some twelve trucks daily will be operating on that stretch when the barytes mine is in full operation. Until these studies are further undergone, of course, we cannot be too sure whether a slow moving lane will be needed in that section or not.

145 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

When is it expected that the Public Service Commissioner will release details of the new scheme for allocation of housing to public servants?

ANSWER

I assume that the honourable member for Sanderson's question really relates to the new "Public Service Housing Policy". I have been pressing the Public Service Commissioner to give me this policy. I was first promised that I would have it in October, I think, but I still do not have it. I understand that it is something that has been discussed by the Public Service Commissioner and the consultative council of union representatives and departmental representatives, and I believe the Public Service

Commissioner is now working on it with the chairman of the Housing Commission. It is certainly something that I attach a degree of priority to and I remind the Public Service Commissioner about it at least fortnightly, so he is having the spurs applied to him.

146 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will the minister confirm that the foreshore study of the Darwin harbour area which was commissioned by his department has now been completed? As a result, does he anticipate that the Darwin Trailer Boat Club and the Darwin Sailing Club will be granted leases for larger areas of land at Vesteys Beach?

ANSWER

The foreshore management study has been completed, I understand, although I have not received the report. Personally, I propose to submit such a report along with its recommendations to Cabinet. Until such time as that is done, I cannot provide any information as to the future of additional land applications for the existing establishments on foreshores.

147 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In the capital works program for 1978-1979 regarding the item of a $33,000 shed for the Coastal Plains Research Station, can the honourable minister tell me if this shed will be used by the Costal Plains Research Station staff or by Professor Harry Messell?

ANSWER

The shed will be for the use of the Coastal Plains Research Station staff.

148 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

It is in reference to the findings of the Jackson Committee that industrial morale in Australia is adversely affected by poor industrial safety records and by inadequate services for migrant workers. The question is, does the Department of Industrial Development have any means of compiling statistics which show time lost as a result of industrial accidents and time lost as a result of the contraction of industrial diseases in the Territory? If so, are these statistics compiled on a regular basis? If not, will he arrange for his department to compile those statistics and, in either case, have them presented to the Assembly?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as you know and the Assembly knows, industrial relations matters and industrial safety matters are split up into three portfolio areas. At this stage, I would assume that somebody else has got the problem. Certainly, any suggestions that the honourable member cares to make are worthy of consideration. I do not know if any exact statistics are being taken at this time through the department but we will have a look at it for him.

155 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the Chief Minister make a statement during these sittings about the transfer of the Australian Legal Aid Office to the Northern Territory government?

ANSWER

I see no reason to make a statement during this sittings on the proposed transfer of the Australian Legal Aid Office to the Northern Territory government. The Australian government has made certain proposals to the Northern Territory government that it should establish a legal aid commission and the Northern Territory government has considered these proposals and has made certain other suggestions to the Australian government. One of the Territory government's concerns is continued funding levels for the Australian Legal Aid Office. The Northern Territory government is not terribly concerned that the provision of legal aid in the Northern Territory is the responsibility of the Australian government. Whilst we see legal aid handled by the Territory government as the optimum, we certainly want to establish quite clearly before any transfer of responsibility is accepted that we will not be left holding the baby on this particular matter.

156 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Grants have now been announced for the family support scheme. Could he indicate the reason for the delay in the processing of applications for this scheme?

ANSWER

The responsibility for these grants rests with the federal Minister for Social Security. There is a committee of Northern Territorians, including officers of my department, officers of the Department of Social Security and people from the voluntary section who assess the merits of each individual application. The recommendations of that committee are forwarded through the Minister for Community Development of the Northern Territory government who has the task of making final recommendations to the federal minister. The recommendations from my office then go back through the office of child care etc and finally get to the Minister for Social Security who makes up her own mind anyway. I think the whole set of circumstances is most unsatisfactory to say the least. I expressed very clearly at the ministers' conference in Canberra last Friday that I believe that these functions should properly rest squarely with the governments of the states or territories. We are people on the ground and in the best position to make assessments of needs in our own communities. It would see to me that, if the Commonwealth got out of the business of direct approval of grants and got into the business of providing lump sum payments to the state departments and to the Northern Territory departments, then the whole process of grants and aid in this area would be speeded up quite considerably. Needless to say, the Commonwealth say that they are providing the funds; therefore they want an overview. It is quite competent for the Commonwealth to set guidelines and to seek undertakings from the states and the Territory that we would comply with those guidelines. If we did not, they have the ultimate threat of cutting off the water or, as happened to me the other night, the electricity. The negotiations between the state and Territory ministers and the Commonwealth in this area are proceeding. There is one final observation: it is really the states' money that the Commonwealth is spending in the first place anyway.

ago and, since then, litigation has been instituted. For reasons known only to itself, the Commonwealth government persists in retaining control of this particular matter and it has dragged on through the Deputy Crown Solicitor's office. It has dragged on despite numerous attempts on my part to speed it up. I have had officers ringing almost daily and certainly weekly. It has now got to the stage where it is in the call-over list of the Supreme Court for a hearing date. I have asked the Solicitor-General, whose services I volunteered to the Commonwealth government, to attend the call-over of the Supreme Court which is to be held on 13 December to ask for a date for a speedy trial.

This matter is nothing short of a scandal. It has taken months for various people to file affidavits and as far as I am concerned, there is absolutely no excuse. In fact, I have given consideration to legislating to cure the anomalous situation but, on reflection, I believe that would be too arbitrary an act. It might leave some people feeling dissatisfied. The matter is in the hands of the court but I am not imputing any delay to the court; I am imputing delay to the parties concerned in the matter. The reports will be tabled during this sittings as is prescribed.

165 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

The open, unlined storm-water drain in Alice Springs which runs between Lindsay Street and Ross Park School has become silted up and has caused water to become trapped upstream of Undoolya Road. This water has become stagnant and is a health hazard. The drain was constructed years ago as part of the early Eastside subdivisional development. Can the minister please investigate this and advise what action can be taken to rectify the problem.

ANSWER

I understand that normally problems of this kind are within the province of the local city council but I am advised that, because of sewerage works in the area, the area manager of the Department of Transport and Works is quite prepared to assist the council in this matter.

166 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is the minister aware that 1979 school term dates announced recently by the school authorities in various parts of Australia show that children in Northern Territory schools will receive two weeks less schooling in 1979 than children in most parts of Australia? Is the minister aware of any evidence to suggest that Northern Territory children are less in need of schooling now than other Australian children? Will he investigate the matter and attempt to have term dates adjusted in the Northern Territory so that our children receive the benefit of the extra week or two school each year.

ANSWER

I think I would need about 20 minutes to answer that question, Mr Speaker, even if it does call for an opinion or a series of opinions. Firstly, no, I have not been made aware of this by the Department of Education - and I assume the honourable member means that by averaging out the states' periods of schooling, we would be two weeks shorter than the states. I have no direct knowledge of this but it will certainly be looked into.

I have indicated on a number of occasions my concern about the compression of time available to students in formal classroom environment for core subjects, having regard to all of the electives and non-core subjects which seem to be taking up the school day. By that, Mr Speaker, I mean

that the school day itself has not been lengthened and yet the number of subject matters being taught in schools has increased. That is bad enough but, if we are actually eroding the amount of time available in the classroom, then I as minister would be very, very concerned about it indeed and I will be discussing the matter with officers of the Department of Education forthwith.

167 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In light of the life of the Dhupuma College being extended for another year, for the 1979 school year, has he any indication whether the situation of the college will be completely reviewed and a positive decision made on its future?

ANSWER

The federal Minister for Education's agreeing - and that is exactly what he did - to extend the life of the Dhupuma College by at least another year was as a result of approaches by this government to allow more time to properly consider the future of that institution. We do not believe that sufficient examination has been made of the options which may be available to us in education in the Gove Peninsula or the eastern Arnhem Land area. Certainly, a detailed examination will be made of the future of Dhupuma and I would hope to see a firm decision make some time during the course of next school year to remove once and for all the uncertainty with which the people of that area now exist.

168 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

This question follows a question I asked of the Minister for Transport and Works in the last Assembly.

Having regard to the fact that the Minister for Community Development has a sum of over $200,000 for pensioners' assistance, would he pay early attention to assistance for pensioners in the field of motor vehicle registration and compulsory third party insurance, as it is causing extreme hardship and some pensioners are facing the prospect of having to sell their cars?

ANSWER

The $208,000 which this government set aside for pensioner assistance was primarily designed and is being used for the purpose of relieving hardship on pensioners in the provision of essential services, principally the services provided by government. The arrangement is this - and it is throughout the departments and statutory authorities which are responsible for the delivery of essential services for the maintenance of homes and flats and so on, such as electricity, water, sewerage - where a pensioner makes it known to the officers of those various authorities and departments that he is firstly a pensioner and secondly in a state of hardship as a result of having to pay essential services accounts, he is not to have his services interfered with or cut off or altered, nor is he to be threatened in any way until such time as he has had a chance to consult with the Department of Community Development. Where it is found that there is a genuine case of hardship, and there are some of them, the Department of Community Development steps in and makes sure that these accounts are paid and the people do not suffer hardship as a result.

If we get ourselves into the area of non-essential services - while I fully recognise the difficulties that pensioners would face in this area - we are certainly going to have to look at a vastly increased sum above the amount of $208,000 which we have been able to make available

this year. There is a limit to what any government can do, particularly a government of this size, in the provision of these types of subsidies, when in fact the primary responsibility for income maintenance for pensioners is that of the federal government. We do, however, believe that we have a responsibility to pensioners where they find themselves in difficulties as a result of government charges for essential services and this government will always seek to assist them or attempt to assist them.

169 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise why the Construction Safety Act and the regulations to that act have not come into effect, given that royal assent has now been given? Can he give an indication to the Assembly when the act and regulations may come into effect?

ANSWER

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

170 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will it be the policy of the government to allow the use of demountables by youth groups and other organisations within the municipality of Darwin?

ANSWER

The short answer is yes. We will allow the use of demountables on these blocks for sporting organisations. However, the use of demountables for normal residential accommodation will be discouraged and the government hopes to work continuously towards removing those demountables that are currently used by the government for residential accommodation at this time.

171 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Could the minister advise the House of the current status of the Rum Jungle restoration work?

ANSWER

Yes, Mr Speaker, I can give the honourable member an indication and I thank him for foreshadowing his question yesterday which helped me to get the information that I need.

At this stage, some $300,000 has been spent by the Commonwealth government in preliminary cleaning up at the mill site at Rum Jungle. A working group involving some 20 people, representing the former Department of the Northern Territory, the Department of Construction, the Atomic Energy Commission and Conzinc-Riotinto of Australia, has made an indepth study of the methods of rehabilitation of the whole area and has presented a comprehensive report detailing several options. The report has been under study by Commonwealth officials and I understand it is to be presented to the Commonwealth government in the very near future. Until the government has decided on the appropriate information, Mr Speaker, that I have not received in writing from the Commonwealth, to the effect that they are considering an additional sum, very close to the previous amount, to be spent in the next 12 months on further rehabilitation work on the Rum Jungle site. As soon as I have some written confirmation of that, I will let the honourable member know.

171A Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What are the requirements for obtaining a driving instructor's licence? Is there any restriction on the number of passengers that may be carried in cars driven by students drivers?

ANSWER

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

172 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will he table during the course of this sittings the recent report of the Advisory Committee on Education?

ANSWER

I will most certainly table that report in this Chamber. I apologise to honourable members for not having done so already. It was an oversight on my part.

173 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

When will he make available to members of the Assembly the Auditor-General's report on the Primary Producers Board for the 1977-78 financial year?

ANSWER

I am unaware that such a report exists and I understand that, under the provisions of the previous Primary Producers Board legislation, there was no requirement to table such reports in this House.

174 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he inform the Assembly whether or not the Northern Territory government officially sponsored the Northern Australian Development Seminar? If not, can he explain why I and many other people received press releases on North Australian Development Seminar letterhead, emanating from the Chief Minister's Department?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government, so far as I am aware, did not officially sponsor the Northern Australian Development Seminar although it certainly supports such seminars. In fact, the opposition spokesman on the Northern Territory in the federal parliament, Dr Doug Everingham, asked me whether I supported the concept of a northern development seminar that he was reponsible for organising some time ago. I agreed that the concept was a very good one and would lend it all support that I possibly could. However, I received no further request for support from Dr Everingham. The Northern Australian Development Seminar, which was organised by the member for Stuart in Alice Springs recently, was a most worthwhile effort. Certainly, I have given every support that I could. Should any press releases supporting it have come from my office, then I am not ashamed that they did. It is a very worthwhile concept.

175 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

I have a supplementary question; perhaps the Chief Minister did not hear me correctly. Can he explain to the Assembly why press releases on Northern Australian Development Seminar letterhead, not his own letterhead, emanated from the Chief MInister's office?

ANSWER

I was not aware that press releases on Northern Australian Development Seminar letterhead emanated from my office. In the event that they did, I can see absolutely no harm in it because the seminar was supported by me. Any such support that my staff could give, I would welcome.

176 Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he inform the House whether a drilling rig brought into the Northern Territory by Beach Petroleum has yet begun operation?

ANSWER

The Beach drilling rig came into the southern end of the Territory about a week ago. It spudded in on the midnight of the 19th and by the morning of the 20th it had completed 100 metres of drilling. The rig will probably be in the region for about 6 weeks. Whether any further drilling is done depends on the result of the first hole.

177 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In the past the annual reports of the Northern Territory Library Service were available to the public. However, they have not been available since 1973-74. Will the minister, in the interest of open government and for the information of library users, recommence this admirable practice by making the 1977-78 annual report of the Northern Territory Library Service available to the people?

ANSWER

I would certainly undertake to discuss the matter with the authors of those documents and determine their attitude. Where people believe they are making a report to a minister, they need not necessarily have the same attitude to their report as when they believe it will become a public document. I would certainly undertake to discuss it with that branch whether they are happy to continue to make their annual reports through the department to me on the basis that they become public documents. I do not have any objection to it.

Mr Speaker, I apologise to the House but I think I may have been under a misapprehension about the question from the honourable member for Fannie Bay. If I was, I gave her a completely wrong answer. The question was in relation to reports on libraries. I took her reference to be to the Libraries Association as opposed to the Northern Territory Library Service. Could she clarify that please?

Mrs O'NEIL: I was referring to the Northern Territory Library Service.

ANSWER

I apologise to the honourable member. That is a totally different thing to what I had in mind. I thought she was talking about submissions made by way of a report from the Northern Territory Libraries Association. The Northern Territory Library Service is a division of my department which is a completely different thing altogether. This is a report direct to a minister. The reports made by the library service previously would have been through official members in this Chamber when it was a Legislative Council. That would have been under quite different circumstances from what applies under self-government. What I would be prepared to do is to examine the possibility of discussing with the honourable member recommendations in a joint approach to the extremely difficult problem of trying to put together the existing shambles of library services in the Northern Territory. I would like to repeat that there is a great deal of difference between what I thought the question was and what in fact it turned out to be.

178 Mr DONDAS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it a fact that the Northern Territory government has requested building societies in the Northern Territory to reduce their interest rates on home loans?

ANSWER

It is a fact that the Northern Territory government has been negotiating since about March of this year with the one building society in the Northern Territory, the Home Building Society, regarding the reduction of its interest rates. We have requested the building society to lower its interest rates. However, it was pointed out to us by the general manager and the chairman of the board of the building society that any reduction of interest rates on home loans themselves would necessarily be followed by a reduction in interest rates on deposits. The building society felt that such a reduction would virtually send money on deposit out of the Territory. It felt it would be unwise to reduce rates until complementary reductions had occurred elsewhere. Now that building societies' interest rates throughout Australia are on the way down, I have reason to believe there will very shortly be a reduction in the building society's interest rates. I might add that it is the government's policy to do all it can to reduce interest rates on moneys available

for lending overall. Certainly, I do not think that Northern Territorians would want to be disadvantaged by having less money to borrow. After all, you only can borrow money if someone is prepared to lend it and people will not lend money if they are not able to get the optimum interest rate on that money.

179 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Can he advise the present status of the Carpentaria College, what its present administration is and, hopefully, given an indication of its future use?

ANSWER

While I have a recent report from my department on this matter, it is not at all satisfactory. We have been trying to get the federal government to formally transfer responsibility for the mortgage for Carpentaria College to the Northern Territory government ever since 1 July. There has been a series of letters on this matter. The situation at the present time is that the Carpentaria College has gone into receivership and the liquidator has re-raised certain questions as to the amount of outstanding loans and valuations. This is being looked into by various people at the present time. Until we can get the federal Department of Administrative Services to formally vest the responsibility for this mortgage in the Northern Territory government, we cannot do very much about expediting the matter by dropping the axe and saying "That's enough. This is the decision". While this is not a very satifactory answer, I felt that the honourable member would be pleased to know at least that much.

180 Mr BALLANTYNE to CHIEF MINISTER

Recently, the Chief Minister made public announcements regarding improvement programs for parks in urban areas. Can he inform the House of the type of work that is planned for the next 12 months?

ANSWER

There are numerous details in relation to urban beautification which I could give this House and I am certainly prepared to furnish them to any honourable member who is interested. In Alice Springs, numerous streets and parks are to be landscaped during the next 12 months by the Forestry Branch. Various school grounds and, in the northern region, places such as Howard Springs and Berry Springs are to have beautification and landscaping work done to them. Mindil and Casuarina beaches will have further work done on them. Most of the major roads will have some beautification work carried out on them and also the road to Yarrawonga. Work will be done on places further afield such as Tumbling Waters and McMinn's Lagoon. I understand also that places such as the Coomalie Creek and Leaning Tree Lagoon picnic areas will be cleaned up and beautified.

Generally, the Forestry Branch of the Parks and Wildlife Commission will be carrying out a great deal of urban beautification in the 2 major Territory centres. I understand that work will also be done in Katherine and Tennant Creek. Seedling trees have been supplied to the Elliott Progress Association which is very interested in doing work in its own small centre. As well, places such as Ti Tree are having work carried out. All in all, the Forestry Branch has quite an ambitious year ahead of it. I think we can look forward to some improvement in the approach to this matter in Darwin and the other centres.

181 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did the minister recently accept a present of furniture from persons from Southeast Asia? If so, was that furniture a personal gift to him or was it a gift to the Northern Territory government?

ANSWER

This matter was brought up in debate here many months ago. The present referred to by the honourable member was made to myself. It was a personal gift from Datuk Harris Sellah, the Chief Minister of Sabah.

182 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Continual comment is being made about the street lights remaining on during daylight hours. Could he please inform us as to the reason why this is so?

ANSWER

I have a comment from the Electricity Commission about this problem. Since the rehabilitation work commenced a series of time clocks have been installed throughout the Darwin area. A surprisingly high rate of failures has resulted in lights being on at odd hours and, in some cases, not on when required. Some 2 weeks ago the commission commenced a complete check and test of all clocks throughout the Darwin area. Whilst the clock is absent from the control box, a by-pass switch is engaged which puts the lights on at all times. The fact that lights are on during the day at the present time and for the next week will indicated that the time clock has been removed and is under test.

183 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

My question refers to the meeting held last December by the Premiums Advisory Committee to review the rates of workmen's compensation insurance premiums charged in the Northern Territory. Is the minister aware that the rates in the Territory are way above those applicable in the states. In particular in the case of fishermen in the Northern Territory the rate is $35 for each $100 of earnings, while in Queensland it is $4 for each $100 of earnings. In the case of Northern Territory building workers, it is $22 for each $100, as against $5 per $100 in Queensland. In view of the seriousness of this situation, will he inform the Assembly of the progress made by this committee and when we may expect to see a significant reduction in Northern Territory workmen's compensation insurance premiums?

ANSWER

If the honourable gentlemen will recall previous debates, mention was made of the high rates for fishermen and in the construction industry. This is no secret. We are well aware of it. How you get the rates down, of course, is another tack to the problem. The question of the difference between Northern Territory and Queensland rates is well recognised. The fact that there is a state government insurance office over there does have some effect on the case because there is cross subsidisation and people who pay premiums on their homes and on the contents of their homes are subsidising workmen's compensation. The whole question of insurance is being considered by the government at the present time.

184 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he explain to me the new Commonwealth scheme to assist patients who live in isolated areas and require transport and accommodation to seek further treatment elsewhere? And does this service or scheme cover orthodontic treatment?

ANSWER

I can, Mr Speaker, and I thank the honourable member for an hour's notice this morning so that I could get the information he was seeking. Perhaps I should say first that the IPTAA scheme, the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance scheme does not apply to orthodontic or other dental services. The new scheme provides travel and accommodation benefits to those people living more than 200 kilometres from the nearest appropriate specialist. In special circumstances, places less than 200 kilometres may be included in the scheme and an application has recently been made to the Director-General of Health in Canberra to include in the scheme Bathurst, Melville, Groote and Elcho Islands and Lake Evella. A reply to this application is awaited.

The scheme is initiated by a general practitioner and the application has to be approved by the Northern Territory Commonwealth Director of Health. The scheme covers surface economy travel, less the first $20. However, air travel is allowed if this is necessary and will largely apply in the Territory. An accommodation benefit of up to $15 per night is payable where an overnight stay is necessary for the appropriate treatment to take place. The scheme does not cover travel outside Australia, cost of ambulance or emergency transport or inter-hospital transfer. The patient is required to pay for the transportation and accommodation charges in the first instance and then claim repayment from the Commonwealth Department of Health when the documentation is completed.

185 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

My question relates again to his gift of furniture. Was the furniture which was given to the minister given an import clearance off the Darwin wharf by customs officers and was import duty and sales tax paid on it?

ANSWER

It is a fair while ago. I am sure the normal procedures were undertaken because I asked the shipping agent to deliver it to my house and I think some dues were paid. But for the exact, fine detail, he will have to put the question on notice.

186 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Previously, I asked a question of the honourable Minister for Lands who then had responsibility for water rates about the subject of bulk water rates for market gardeners. I am unaware of any optimistic results. So now, as it is in the honourable minister's portfolio, I ask him could we expect some consideration to be given to this subject?

ANSWER

The cost of providing water to market gardeners and other primary producers for irrigation purposes from the normal town water supply has been looked at from time to time. Because of limitations and the capacity of the reticulation systems themselves and in some areas, for example Tennant Creek and Alice Springs, the limited water available from the source providing the town supplies, the policy has been to limit bulk use of water

from these sources to ensure that sufficient water would be made available for domestic purposes. The government has given considerable assistance to primary producers, including market gardeners, to develop their own supplies and this will continue. Current indications are that the town water supplies are becoming increasingly strained in meeting normal domestic and town needs and therefore there is little likelihood of the present policy changing in the near future.

187 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

My question follows on from a question I asked of the honourable Minister for Community Development yesterday, in answer to which I was advised that there is not likely to be a concession offered to pensioners for motor vehicle registration from his department. My question to the honourable minister now is, will he consider a concessional rate for pensioners for motor vehicle registration and compulsory third party insurance, having regard to the relatively poor public transport system and the extremes of climate?

ANSWER

In the case of any sort of subsidy it is not just for one minister to say that he would consider it or otherwise, except that it would have to go before Cabinet, if a decision was to be taken. I indicated earlier that there are something like 1,876 pensioners who drive vehicles - that was on a formula basis - and that some subsidies do apply in the states. Whether the Northern Territory government is to subsidise pensioners for their registration charges has yet to be determined. Certainly, I think third party insurance comes into another category.

188 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he tell us by what provision of the Electricity Commission Act is the commission empowered to disconnect the supply of electricity to various premises for non-payment of accounts? By way of explanation, Mr Speaker, perhaps I can just say that under the old Supply of Services Ordinance specific powers to disconnect supply for that reason did exist.

ANSWER

I will examine the act and report back to the member later on.

189 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

This question is asked on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. Can he advise what advantages would a meat marketing authority have for the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I am not so sure that a meat marketing authority would do a lot of good at this time because of the fact that we are tied very closely to the federal people in respect of quotas and of course other marketing arrangements, most of them undertaken down south. We have commenced a study and are currently looking at New South Wales and Queensland marketing authority legislation. There may be some benefits to be gained from that. As you are aware, Sir, we have looked at various schemes throughout the years. In fact, a beef cattle stabilisation scheme was introduced in this House and disallowed on Tuesday; I think it was introduced in 1975.

We will strive wherever possible to assist the beef cattle producers. That is our charter and, if marketing legislation is one way of doing that and we can convince the producers that that is what they need or if that is what they want, we will produce that sort of result for them.

190 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the minister received complaints from residents in Bagot Road regarding vehicles crashing into power poles which results in the power being cut off? Will the Northern Territory Electricity Commission start suing for the recovery of these costs?

ANSWER

I understand the commission is suing motorists for the damage they cause to poles. There is no way that the motorist can be sued for the inconvenience to the consumer. However, I understand the Electricity Commissioner is currently protecting some of the most favoured poles so that there will be less inconvenience to consumers.

191 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the government subcommittee on the reform of land legislation reported to the government yet? If so, is he in a position to give this Assembly a report on the progress of the work of this subcommittee?

ANSWER

I am not in a position at this stage to give the House a report on progress in this matter. The government does regard the total review of land laws in the Northern Territory as of the highest priority and we will be seeking in the very near future to engage some additional assistance on this very large task, with a view to having consolidated legislation in this House at the earliest possible date next year.

192 Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can the minister inform the House of progress to date in the organisation of a mining technology training course?

ANSWER

The answer is yes. The honourable member has asked this question in the House once before and on the last occasion that I answered the question there had not been a great deal of activity. I am pleased to report that since April 1978 when the Chamber of Mines first sponsored the educational forum to determine the training that was needed in the mining and quarrying industries in the Northern Territory, a recommendation from this forum was that a steering committee be formed to work out the curricula and organisational details to get a training program under way. The committee set up at the moment which consists of members of the Chamber of Mines, the Institute of Quarrying, the Department of Mines and Energy, the Darwin Community College, the National Training Council and the Trades and Labour Council had its first meeting in the middle of this year. Consequent to the meetings of the steering committee, the manpower development officer from the Master Builders Association has been seconded to the Chamber of Mines to research the training requirements of the industry. A preliminary report presented by him to the steering committee generally endorsed the need for training courses at the operator and supervisor levels.

Complementary to the steering committee's activities, the Darwin Community College has advertised for a lecturer in mining education. The duties of this lecturer will include a comprehensive survey of the mining industry's training needs. The manpower development officer's report will be utilised here, assessing existing courses and developing new programs along with conducting some courses in specific training areas and making recommendations for future policy on mining education in the Northern Territory.

Recommendations relating to the appointment of a formal mining training committee to replace the steering committee and some specific proposals for training courses and arrangements for liaison with the Darwin Community College, the Department of Mines and Energy and the Department of Education have been prepared by the committee and presented to the Chamber of Mines. Responses to the recommendations and to the advertisement for a mining lecturer are expected to be made available shortly.

193 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he inform the Assembly when Mr Jack Taylor, the proprietor of the Bloodwood Caravan Park, is likely to receive advice from either the minister or his department on the numerous submissions which have been made regarding the future use of his caravan park?

ANSWER

I can say that Mr Taylor has received, in response to his submissions, numerous replies, correspondence and interviews with me personally and other officers of both the Lands and Housing Department and the Housing Commission on the subject of the future of his park which is part of the 32-square-mile acquisition area. A decision was made a few weeks ago that a fixed period of tenancy would be offered to Mr Taylor. The period will be aligned to the time it takes to decide finally on the future use of the area for the town plan that is being worked on for the 32-square-mile area. It is hoped to give Mr Taylor about 3 years of fixed term tenancy at this stage. As soon as the future of the 32-square-mile area is determined, the agreements for occupancy in the area will be reviewed and renewed in the light of that information from the town plan.

194 Mr DONDAS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it a fact that he is going to attend a federal and state ministers' conference on employment in Canberra tomorrow? If so, what is the purpose of his attendance at that meeting?

ANSWER

I will be attending a conference of federal and state labour ministers in Canberra tomorrow on the problems of technology and employment. I understand the conference will be commencing at about 10 am and, for that reason, I have to leave Darwin this afternoon and I crave your indulgence in that regard, Mr Speaker. I will be accompanied by the Public Service Commissioner, Mr Norm Campbell. I understand that, amongst the papers to be considered by the conference which will also be attended by the federal Minister for Productivity, Mr MacPhee, and Mr Ray Groom, the Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development, will be one on the problems of unemployment. Since that has received some attention already at this sittings, I think it is not inappropriate that I do attend this conference. I hope to report to the Assembly during the course of next week whether it appeared to me to bear any fruit.

I might mention that there is a further conference being arranged by the Victorian premier in Melbourne some time during December. I have received an invitation for the Northern Territory to send 2 senior officials to this conference. It has been pointed out that politicians are not being asked as it is intended that it not be a platform for putting forward political views but for putting forward, they hope, more objective points of views and getting down to business with technocrats, officials and people interested in labour relations. I am nominating 2 senior officials to attend and one of them will be the Public Service Commissioner. In due course, probably at our first sittings next year, I will also report to the Assembly on what benefits, if any, for the Northern Territory will come out of that conference. I note some recent news reports that the president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions has been throwing cold water over the concept of the conference but I do hear that lately he has relented and has decided to attend.

195 Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

What are the guidelines used for deciding whether information will or will not be given to the parliament? I preface my question by stating that the Chief Minister is aware that, on 13 October this year, the minister assisting the federal treasurer issued a special Gazette prohibiting the sale of Willeroo under section 22 of the Foreign Takeover Act. I ask the Chief Minister to categorically deny that he or his ministers, or someone acting on his or their behalf, intervened with the federal government to ensure that the sale was blocked? If he will not make such a denial, I ask why he or others took that action?

ANSWER

The guidelines for the giving of information to the parliament are simply whatever information ministers of the Crown consider should be reported to the parliament in the course of their ministerial duties. It is obvious that this cannot include everything they do because many matters are of a confidential nature. On matters of topical public interest and matters of government policy where appropriate, I believe they should from time to time make ministerial statements. I might add that question time is available every day for use by all honourable members, to elicit information from the government and the honourable member for Victoria River is availing himself of this opportunity at the present time.

I have not seen the Commonwealth government Gazette which apparently precludes the purchase of Willeroo pursuant to the foreign takeover legislation. I certainly was told that the Foreign Takeovers Committee had intervened and I can assure you that the intervention was not at the instigation of the Northern Territory government. In fact, the proposed purchaser of Willeroo, a Mr Wise, sought to clarify through the Lands Branch whether the Northern Territory government had any opposition to his purchase of Willeroo. It was indicated that we had no opposition because he already owned one property in the Northern Territory, Benmara Station, which I understand he operates efficiently and well. These are the sort of people that we want to encourage to take up land in the Northern Territory.

196 Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is the minister able to say whether the Bureau of Mineral Resources intends to reduce its Darwin staff?

ANSWER

The Bureau of Mineral Resources is a federal department. I am aware that since the transfer of the Department of the Northern Territory to this

government in July, the Bureau of Mineral Resources has been phasing out some of its activities in the Northern Territory. Two local officers that I know of have been seeking employment with the Mines Branch. Both of these gentlemen are professionals in their field and would be well valued by the Department of Mines and Energy if they came. As to whether the Bureau of Mineral Resources is phasing out on a permanent basis, I do not know. I would have to get further information.

197 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will he confirm that the central reference library of the former Department of the Northern Territory is still located in Canberra because adequate accommodation is not available in Darwin? When does he anticipate that this library will be transferred to the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Not only is the central reference library a question but there are about 10,000 articles of archival nature which need to be located in the Northern Territory. We are in quite some difficulty in coming to grips with the enormous expense in correcting the run-down state of library services in the Northern Territory. This government has a whole series of priorities. One of the priorities is the establishement of a proper public lending library service in the Northern Territory, including reference libraries and archives. This is not a problem which we will solve overnight unless we can find ourselves a printing press and some people can wave magic wands and create buildings overnight. It is a difficult task. The government is trying to tackle it.

198 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he give the Assembly an assurance that the Nhulunbuy airport road to Yirrkala community will be sealed in the next year's program?

ANSWER

I would like to give that assurance. If it were not for some difficulties being experienced with the alignment, I would be able to give that assurance. The government has the money programmed. There is some difficulty in getting the alignment because of the bauxite reserve. I think those problems will be remedied in a very short time.

206 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it the intention of the Northern Territory government or any of its departments or instrumentalities to print and send Christmas cards this year?

ANSWER

No, it is not the intention of the Northern Territory government to send out Christmas cards this year. The view taken is that the cost far exceeds any benefit, especially these days with the volume of Christams cards that seem to float around and, of course, the postage rates being as high as they are. For each government department and instrumentality to be sending out Christmas cards, the postage bill would no doubt run to an astronomical figure. However, members can be assured that the Northern Territory government does wish all citizens of the Northern Territory a merry and happy Christmas and a prosperous and successful New Year.

207 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What is his government's policy with respect to the retention of unsolicited gifts presented either to himself or to his ministers? Can he also advise whether he has given consideration to implementing the Prime Minister's policy on this issue, which briefly is that, if ministers receive unsolicited gifts from business to the value of over $100, they pay the value of that gift to the receiver of public moneys at the Prime Minister's Department and, if it is a gift from on overseas government, that value instead of being $100 is $250?

ANSWER

My government has never had to formulate a policy in relation to unsolicited gifts because none of my ministers has ever received a gift of sufficient worth to make it worth formulating such a policy. I understand that whilst the honourable Minister for Transport and Works was a back bench member of this House in the First Assembly, he received a cane lounge suite from the Chief Minister of Sabah, Datuk Harris Sellab, in appreciation of many gestures of hospitality from the whip, as he then was, to Datuk Harris during a visit to the Northern Territory. But this was a personal gesture that the honourable Leader of the Opposition has seen fit to dredge up out of the past over the last couple of sitting days, probably to try to throw a smoke screen around the machinations of the honourable member for MacDonnell in the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress where he uses public and taxpayers' funds to run election campaigns.

But there is no doubt that if substantial gifts were offered to ministers of this Assembly, those gifts would be returned. I am not talking about small gifts, such as a bottle of whisky, although I can recall that last Christmas the receiver of Willeroo, Mr Quinton, was so kind as to send me an unsolicited bottle of Black Label whisky and I thought then that this was perhaps not the best of moves on his part, in view of the fact that negotiations were outstanding and I sent him a cheque for the value of that bottle of whisky because of the particular circumstances. I think, Mr Speaker, that ministers have to be trusted to have the discretion in various circumstances to act as honest men and men of integrity. But as a general rule, certainly, I would return gifts that were of any substantial value unless there were particularly mitigating circumstances around the donation of the gift.

208 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When did he receive the gift of furniture from the Chief Minister of Sabah and could he place a value on that gift?

ANSWER

I ask him to place his question on notice.

209 Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

Could he please inform this House when the new Darwin Town Plan will be adopted?

ANSWER

The Darwin Town Plan 1978 that went on display on 1 January this year has gone through a long and rather tedious process of display and the hearing of objections. The Town Planning Board has completed its deliberations and handed the plan across to me within the past couple of weeks. I have sought a number of changes to it before presenting it to the Executive Council with a view to having it adopted. I expect that the formalities of drawing up the paperwork required for submission to the Executive Council will be completed this week. I would envisage that the plan will be adopted at the earliest Executive Council meeting after the end of this week.

210 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What is the policy of his government on the future development of Alice Springs Community College?

ANSWER

I would ask him to place the question on notice.

211 Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has the minister or his department paid any attention to the provision of areas specifically for fossickers and does the minister agree that such a plan would be of assistance to tourist operators in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Currently there is no provision under the ordinance to enable people to fossick in the Northern Territory. I think this is of detriment to ourselves more than to the people that are coming here to fossick. We are making provisions in the new mining legislation to cover areas for people to fossick - not particularly for people with miners' rights but just for the average tourist who may have an interest in gemstones. I am particularly aware of this because of a recent visit to the vermiculite operation just north east of Alice Springs and the Harts Range area. There were 3 bus tours of people who had camped out and had been there for several days fossicking. It is a part of their routine to stop off in this area every year. The people who were there raised with us the problem that they do not know beforehand whether they will be allowed to operate in an area. In fact, these particular people had been advised by Queenslanders that, if you go to the gemstone fields in Central Australia, the Mines Department people will chase you off with a gun. I believe it is unfortunate that this sort of word should travel through the travel industry. I believe one of the best ways that we could over-

come this information being spread about is to set aside in the legislation special areas for fossickers, make the rules known and make the areas known so that the whole of the travel industry in Australia can be aware of them.

212 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the progress of the implementation of an ADP-based land administration and information system?

ANSWER

I would ask the honourable member to place the question on notice as I do not have any detailed answer that I can provide for her this morning.

Perhaps, if I might suggest a procedure, Mr Speaker, and it is entirely up to honourable members whether they wish to adopt this procedure or not, but it is obvious that ministers cannot carry all the information pertaining to their departments around in their heads for question time and, when a question of a technical nature such as that just asked by the honourable member for Sanderson is to be asked, perhaps if members gave the minister concerned 24 hours' notice, he would be ready with the answer which they may want for some other purpose in the House at the time.

213 Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can the minister inform the House when the Beach Petroleum drilling program in the Simpson desert will be completed?

ANSWER

The short answer, Mr Speaker, is no. I announced to the House the other day that the Beach Petroleum drilling program had just started. I have seen a report in the last 24 hours to say that Beach are down to a depth of 1,353 metres and they are setting their casing. I would expect this hole to take another 4 to 5 weeks. Whether there are any more holes in this program and whether the program will continue will depend on what comes out of this particular drilling.

214 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the Minister for Lands and Housing made a firm decision to give Mr Taylor of the Bloodwood Caravan Park a 3-year lease only? If so, has he or his department informed Mr Taylor of the decision?

ANSWER

I informed the House the other day that I had given instructions that Mr Taylor was to be given a fixed-term tenure - I do not think I used the work "lease" - over the premises that he is renting from the government in the 32-square-mile acquisition area for a period of 3 years. On subsequent checking with the Housing Commission who at the present time has the responsibility for administering these agreements, it is thought that there may be a possibility of extending that period of fixed-term tenure beyond a 3-year period and this is being looked at at the present time. As to whether or not Mr Taylor has been directly informed by myself, I have had a number of discussions with him on this matter in the past. I do specifically recall saying to him that he would be given a term of undisturbed occupancy under his existing agreement. It is now thought better to redraw the agreement to be rid of some anomalies that are in the existing agreement but I believe the honourable member for Tiwi has had words with him after she raised these questions with me and I advised her

within the past few weeks that she could certainly inform him, in response to his queries to her, that he would be receiving a fixed-term tenancy.

215 Mrs PADGHAM-PRUICH to TREASURER

What increase has occurred in the Lands Department establishment since self-government, what areas are these increases in and what additional services are being offered to justify these increases?

ANSWER

I have had some forewarning of this question. The Department of Lands and Housing had a total staffing establishment of 290 on 1 July and 317 on 22 November. All but one of these positions have been created in the executive and management services area. The management services functions such as personnel, recruitment, finance, office services and registry were carried out prior to 1 July by a large centralised area for all branches of the Department of the Northern Territory. Each department now has to provide staff to perform these duties within its own department. An organisation proposal is currently under consideration to improve the service to the public within the Department of Lands and Housing and this will probably result in additional positions being created. Steps have already been taken in some areas to reduce delays and it is confidently expected that, as new proposals are progressively implemented, the service to the public will improve.

216 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has he given a direction of his office barring other government departments from tendering for contracts let by the Department of Transport and Works. If so, can he explain why?

ANSWER

I cannot remember just what directions I might have given to the department. Certainly, it is a government policy that departments would be unable to tender against private enterprise in normal situations. I do recall writing to the Electricity Commission in this regard and directing the commission not to contract against the private sector.

217 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I ask this question on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. Is he aware of concern being expressed by licensed charter airlines about illegal charter operators?

ANSWER

This has been a problem for some time. Approaches have been made to the federal Minister for Transport to transfer the functions that look after charter operations in the Northern Territory government. At present, we have a consultant from the Western Australia government, Mr Frank Gallagher, who is currently working on our air policies to assist us in the future. We will be ready for some transfer of these functions possibly towards the middle of next year. The whole question of regional management of this aspect of government from South Australia has proved a dismal failure over a long period. I have pleaded with the federal minister to get some enforcement in this area so that the illegal charter operators would not be able to operate.

218 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Firstly, when will regulations be made concerning the fees to be paid for licences by electrical contractors? Secondly, why are electrical contractors being asked to pay specific licence fees when these fees have not yet been prescribed by regulations as required by the act?

ANSWER

I will endeavour to find out the information for the honourable member and report back to her later in the day.

219 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

About 18 months ago, interest was generated in land on the Marrakai Plains which was supposed to be released for miscellaneous leases. Many months have passed since the survey of these areas has been completed but the land has still not been released. What is the delay and when will the land be released?

ANSWER

Five blocks were tentatively designed for release under miscellaneous lease tenure some time ago. Two blocks were actually brought to the stage of being surveyed but, whilst that survey was being undertaken, an interim investigation was commenced into the possibility of subdividing the blocks further because at that time they were about 50 square miles each. It was proposed to relook at the question of bringing them into smaller blocks to allow more people to participate in this type of activity, seeing the blocks concerned were adjacent to the Arnhem Highway and had reasonable access. The investigations included looking into the question of the availability of electricity which is certainly a very important consideration in the viability of these types of concerns when they are operated in a fairly small way. The land conservation unit of the Department of Lands and Housing is currently finalising a soil survey over this particular area and I hope that information is with me very shortly, recommending a release of 4 blocks in the area in question as it is my belief and my government's belief that we must put as many of these blocks out to the public as is possible in the shortest time to allow more people than at present to get on with the job of developing a viable miscellaneous lease-type primary production enterprise in the Northern Territory.

220 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

My question is in regard to the proposal to establish the museum and art gallery on Bullocky Point. Is it the government's intention to proceed with the original design or are new plans to be developed? If so, will local architects be commissioned for that purpose?

ANSWER

I think I have already indicated to the House that the original plans as envisaged from the Canberra-based architects will not be used. The reason, of course, is that the cost was well out of proportion to what the Northern Territory could reasonably afford. The target that the government had set for the building was in the order of $5m and the costing came out ranging between $10m and $12m, and indeed rise and fall would have caused it probably to go more like $14m by the time it was complete. That was quite beyond our resources. The Museums and Art Galleries Board, through its chairman, has been requested to involve

the Department of Transport and Works in the commissioning of local architects or whatever form of tendering is considered by that department as being the most efficient and equitable. The concern of this government is, of course, to see that the maximum degree of local expertise is used. That would include local architects, engineers and, hopefully, providing they can tender satisfactorily, local builders.

221 Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can the minister inform the House of progress to date in the review or initiation of legislation under his control?

ANSWER

I can advise the honourable member - and it follows in from a question asked the other day by the honourable Leader of the Opposition who asked why is the Construction Safety Ordinance not in effect now that royal assent has been given and when will it be implemented. I believe the honourable member directed it to my colleague, the Minister for Transport and Works who fielded the question and ultimately handed it over to me.

The answer to the question is that the Construction Safety Act has not yet commenced as the rules and regulations which are necessary to enable the act to be brought into operation are yet to be approved by the Executive Council. The drafting of the rules and regulations has been completed and it is expected these will be considered by the Executive Council early in December. I am sure the honourable member will get great solace from that; he has pursued it vigorously.

Relating to other acts that are now in the pipeline, proposals for an entirely new Mining Act to replace the existing rather outdated legislation have been under consideration for some time. The new draft act has been circulated to companies and other interested parties, such as the Chamber of Mines and other organisations. Various responses are being considered at the moment.

Concerning the Mines Regulation Act, following an agreement between the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory government, provision for enforcement of environmental conditions recommended by the Ranger Uranium Environmental Inquiry's second report is being made in the Northern Territory Mines Regulation Act. A draft of the necessary regulations has been received and is being reviewed by the Mines and Energy Department. Comments will be provided to the chief draftsman for the preparation of a final draft after consultation with the appropriate Commonwealth departments. So far as the Petroleum (Prospecting and Mining) Act is concerned, the department is in the process of forwarding instructions to the legislative draftsmen for amendments to bring this act into line with the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and to extend the maximum term of a permit. In so far as the Mines Safety Control Act is concerned, Cabinet approval has been obtained for a complete drafting of the regulations as a matter of priority. No date for the likely completion of this work can be indicated. The act itself has been passed and it cannot be brought into operation until the regulations are complete.

222 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What steps is his department taking to upgrade its ADP facilities to cope with the transfer of Department of Health functions on 1 January next year and also to cope with the Treasury functions which are currently being carried on an agency basis by the Commonwealth?

ANSWER

I thought I answered a question last week that dealt with ADP. I recall that we let contracts for $70,000 and there was another contract for $350,000 to go. I should imagine that, with this money being spent on those facilities, it would involve the transferred functions. However, I will seek further information for the honourable gentleman and let him know.

223 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Litter still remains one of the major problems in the Northern Territory today. Has there been an increase in the number of people who have had on-the-spot litter fines imposed on them? I would also like to know when the Northern Territory government will be introducing initiatives to help solve our growing litter problem?

ANSWER

There is absolutely no doubt that the present provisions for the control of litter and the prevention of the littering of our streets and countryside is a miserable failure. You could not describe it as anything else. We thought that we would go a long way towards solving the problem with the on-the-spot litter fines. That just has not worked. On my understanding, no more than about 11 on-the-spot notices have been issued to date and only 3 fines have been collected. When the remaining 8 fines were not paid, officers of the Darwin city council - I am referring only to Darwin at the moment - found that they had been given false names and addresses. Clearly, the present system is not working and we will have to take a long hard look at it. Officers of my department in conjunction with the city councils and other interested people will be exploring the matter with great vigour. Cabinet is at this stage anticipating a submission for its consideration which is being prepared by the National Parks and Wildlife Commission with the idea of taking up some of the matters mentioned by His Honour the Administrator during his speech to the Assembly. It is a very difficult problem. I have mentioned in this place various methods used to try to counter it including one from New Zealand which attracts me greatly. It is something that is being pursued by officers of the department and by the National Parks and Wildlife Commission. I would hope that we will be able to come up with some solution but, quite clearly, we have been unable to do so to date.

224 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has the allocation of grants to community organisations from the 1978-79 budget been completed? If so, have all organisations who applied for grants been notified?

ANSWER

All grants have not yet been finalised. All of those of a recurrent nature would have been and advice would have been given to most of those at this stage as to their success or otherwise. It adds up to

something like $330,000 worth of community grants both in the general community grants field and in the grants to welfare organisations field. I hope to be in a position to give more detailed information tomorrow.

225 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it the intention of the government to release Banteng cattle to private enterprise for experimentation?

ANSWER

It is not the intention of the government to farm out Banteng cattle. However, we would be interested in hearing any propositions from private pastoralists who may have some ideas that might be useful in animal production. We would certainly want to hear those ideas before we even thought about farming those animals out privately.

226 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Is he in a position to inform the Assembly of the site of the proposed casino in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

The site for the proposed hotel-casino development in Alice Springs will be what is called the old inner farms area on the town side of the Gap over the other side of the Todd River from the main centre of Alice Springs itself. The company that the Northern Territory government proposes to continue to negotiate an agreement with owns a 20-acre site. I met most members of the Alice Springs city corporation yesterday evening to discuss this matter before public announcements were made. The members present very enthusiastically received the announcement of the development and the details of the development and foresaw no particular problems with the siting of the development. I would like to inform honourable members that drawings of the Darwin development and the Alice Springs development will be on display in the committee room for members who wish to look at them today.

227 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In view of the damage to the telecom installation at Cox Peninsula and knowing that Telecom own the towers and lines through Palmerston Park and these are used at about half capacity now, what will the Northern Territory government do to remove these unsightly erections and have a more aesthetically pleasing public service facility before negotiations are completed between the Northern Territory government, the Commonwealth and Telecom regarding the future of Cox Peninsula and power reticulation across the harbour?

ANSWER

It is true that the Commonwealth owns the 66KV transmission lines between Stokes Hill power station and the installation on Cox Peninsula. There are no plans to remove or modify the line where it crosses Palmerston Park. However, it is proposed to remove the section of overhead line between Stokes Hill power station and the city zone sub-station in McMinn Street within the next year as this will be redundant. The commission uses one circuit of the line between the city zone sub-station and Mindil Beach as a feeder to Darwin Hospital. This feeder operates at 11KV although the line is rated as 66KV. The commission has no control over the future of the equipment owned by the Commonwealth. However, it is understood that the Commonwealth intends to restore the supply to Cox Peninsula substantially as it was before the cyclone.

229 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware of speculation that the Corporation of the City of Darwin will establish a caravan park on or near the old golf course at Fannie Bay to replace the Mindil Beach caravan park? Does he intend to make land available in that area for the purpose of a caravan park?

ANSWER

In discussions with the city corporation on an alternative site for the Mindil Beach caravan park, an area on the old golf course was discussed along with others but no decision has been made on the site for the new council caravan park. I will be seeking from the corporation, as soon as possible, its decision as to where such a park should go. Action will then have to be taken under the Town Planning Act to publicly display those areas if they require changes to the plan.

230 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will the vacant crown land at Marrara be vested in the city council for sport and recreation purposes?

ANSWER

A draft plan of the area has been drawn up in consultation with the city corporation and the planning unit of the Department of Lands and Housing. At present, the site is being surveyed. I would hope that the site will formally be vested in the corporation later in December but, knowing how things tend to slow down somewhat near Christmas, it would be early January. I have given instructions to the department that this matter is to receive continuous urgent attention because we would like to see this land vested in the various sporting organisations as soon as possible.

231 Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware that the New South Wales government has announced that it will licence 6 casinos? If so, what effect does he thing this will have on the Northern Territory proposals?

ANSWER

I am aware of press reports that the New South Wales government has decided to license 6 casinos in New South Wales. I do not believe that this is a matter for concern by the Northern Territory government in relation to its own recent announcement. The New South Wales government is obviously taking steps to legalise an existing situation. In New South Wales, they have a number of illegal casinos and it is speculated that quite a amount of undesirable activity is associated with illegal gambling in that state. I understand further that the New South Wales casino proposal is that they should operate under an English club system whereby persons have to be financial members of a club for a certain minimum period before they can actually gain entry to a casino. I do not see that the decision in New South Wales will significantly affect the situation that they already have other than that the casinos will be controlled and the government will obtain revenue from them. They do exist there today and I do not see it making much difference to the Northern Territory situation.

232 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can he recall if the furniture which was given to him as a present by the Chief Minister from Sabah was inspected, cleared and fumigated by plant quarantine officers in Darwin?

ANSWER

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

233 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the definition of a "local contractor" - one outside the Northern Territory or one 200 miles from the next township? This is in reference to the 5% preference for local contractors.

ANSWER

As members know, the government has decided to give a preference to local contractors and I think I might have indicated earlier that the whole question of preferences will be reviewed in March 1979. At this stage, there is no differential between towns in the Northern Territory. All Northern Territory contractors are treated the same but we will be looking at the whole question again in March 1979.

234 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What arrangements have been made for the Northern Territory Department of Health to establish a specialist unit to monitor the health aspects of uranium mining?

ANSWER

My understanding is - and I cannot give an assurance at this stage because I need to get it in writing from the Department of National Resources, the Department of Mines and Energy and the Department of Health - there is an agreement between the 3 departments about what roles will be played by what people over the monitoring of certain functions within the uranium province. I do not have that particular information in my head. I will endeavour to get it but I would advise the honourable member that she is likely to get it in about a week.

235 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Mr D. McKay, who has an agricultural lease near Batchelor, applied for a grazing licence over adjacent vacant crown land in 1977. He was refused on the grounds that the land was to be advertised for public competition. This land has not been advertised and there is no indication when it will be. What is the delay and when will the land be released?

ANSWER

The government is not generally in favour of ad hoc land release and firmly believes that land should be released in an orderly form in the best interests of all concerned. So that land may be released under miscellaneous lease tenure, the area in question near Batchelor, along with other land in the locality has in part been assessed and evaluated for agricultural and mixed farming pursuits. Delays have occurred in releasing this land due to a number of competing applications for the land. When all the necessary data has been compiled, the land will be released for public competition and this will enable all interested

persons, including adjacent land holders such as the one the honourable member mentions, to apply for the land and the relative merits of each application will be determined by the Land Board. I expect that this land will be advertised for release early in 1979.

236 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware that the New South Wales government recently announced a $15 bonus to all New South Wales pensioners? Has the government given consideration to a similar bonus to Northern Territory pensioners for Christmas?

ANSWER

The short answer is no. This government has made a large provision for pensioners, some $208,000, in its budget for this financial year. If it were to take on such an exercise, we would have none of that $208,000 left. It was rather interesting that when Mr Jackson, the minister in New South Wales, made the announcement of the grant of $15, he was treated rather miserably by the pensioners' association. In fact, the pensioners' association spokesman came out with a statement something like, "I guess it is better than a kick in the teeth, but it should have been $25 or $30". You just cannot win in this game at all and I express my sympathy to a colleague even if he is on the other side of the fence. I think it is something perhaps that state governments and the Territory government could examine in the future. Quite contrary to what the pensioners' association spokesman said, I thought it was a first class gesture. I would imagine, to many people, the sum of $15 just before Christmas would be very useful indeed.

237 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I ask this question on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. Can he advise what is the average price paid for a bull and ox weighing between 400 and 450 pounds and 450 and 500 pounds at Katherine in 1978?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker that information is bulls 400 to 450 pounds 18¢ and ox 19¢; bulls 450 to 500 pounds 20.5¢ and ox 21.5¢.

238 Mr PERKINS to TREASURER

Will he advise when the Borroloola town plan will be competed and adopted?

ANSWER

A draft town plan has been drawn up for Borroloola which takes into account land releases in the event of the relocation of existing facilities at Borroloola onto higher ground out of the flood zone. Recently, in consultation with the member for Elsey, I approved a draft plan and referred it back to the department for final work. I would expect that a plan could be approved and land released in the area early in the new year.

239 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Mr Roy Tyler conducts the RR Ranch on a part of the 32 square mile acquisition area without secure tenure of the land. It is now over 2 years since Mr Tyler applied for tenure over the land and I believe has

had investigations by the field staff and the lands department. Is the administrative bureaucracy delaying the release of suitable land for Mr Tyler and, if so, when will suitable land be released to him?

ANSWER

No permanent release of land in the 32 square mile acquisition area is proposed until such time as a development plan has been drawn up and approved over the area. This plan is presently being prepared and will go on display at the earliest possible date. Possible sites for commercial riding schools such as this gentleman is seeking are being considered in other areas in the vicinity of Darwin, with a view to making a suitable lease available for public offer as soon as the relevant information can be put together. It seems there is some competition in the demand for a commercial riding school lease.

240 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

This question is asked on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. Has the Northern Territory government adopted the practice of splitting tenders into portions for the supply of material and labour to assist local contractors?

ANSWER

It is usual policy that contracts are let in toto to incorporate all the features of the particular work that is required. However, a housing contract might have some splitting with the fire extinguishers or the solar hotwater heaters as a separate contract. Major contracts are sometimes plit and in this regard I can provide some information. I can mention 2 exceptions to the policy. One was to fit in with the BHP rolling steel plate; the department has placed an order on BHP for the supply of steel plate to be rolled into pile for the Darwin wharf project. We are also calling tenders for the supply of pipe - $1.1m for the Karama to Casuarina pipeline. There are some exceptions but, generally, the policy is not to split the contracts.

241 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

My question relates to the Law Review Committee to which he referred extensively during the Police Administration Bill last night. Can the minister advise the Assembly of the status of that committee and of its membership?

ANSWER

The Law Review Committee is constituted under a document which it has adopted as a constitution. I am not sure of the exact numbers of its membership but it is chaired by a supreme court judge; there is at least one magistrate as a member of it and a considerable number of barristers and solicitors. One person who practises solely as a barrister is a member. The rest of the members, as far as I am aware, are solicitors. From time to time when it requires advice outside this field, I understand it co-ops people for discussion. I cannot give the exact number on the committee.

I have given consideration to establishing it under statute but I rather feel that that would leave it in a less flexible state than it is at present. Its members are now paid an honorarium by the Northern Territory government for their services; it is certainly not a very significant amount of money. There is a member from Alice Springs now; there was not

previously under the Commonwealth administration, and the government pays this member's fares - I just forget exactly how many fares per year - to enable him to attend meetings in Darwin.

The work of the committee has been very satisfactory and of a high order and I certainly have no criticism of the committee. Indeed, I believe that the prime mover, Mr Justice Muirhead, who organised the establishment of the committee several years ago, and all members of the committee are to be congratulated for devoting so much time to the matter of law reform and law review. I believe the Territory is very well off to have this body of people who make their services available.

242 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Does the Northern Territory government have demountable units for disposal and, if so, can he give me an indication of their value?

ANSWER

There are demountable units in store and on housing lots under the control of the Housing Commission. It would be very difficult for me to establish a price. No doubt some of them would have deteriorated somewhat over the last couple of years. The government is developing a policy to get rid of the units. In this regard, we are encouraging tourist developers to make use of the units to provide themselves with better accommodation and this would be undertaken through the Territory Development Corporation. I understand that other departments are currently looking at their requirements. It may be that, towards the tail end, there will be some sales made to the general public. The policy has been not to disadvantage local retailers of caravans and demountables. It is not envisaged that our actions would cause them concern in any way.

243 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Does the government intend to ensure that the work on the use of sewage effluent on forestry programs by CSIRO adjacent to Leanyer swamp will be continued?

ANSWER

Obviously, what the CSIRO does is not a matter for this government. We are very pleased to see them doing this work but they are a Commonwealth intrumentality and this government can have no direction or guidance over such a body. However, I understand that this government is carrying on work in relation to the use of sewage effluent for irrigation purposes. I believe that such a scheme is likely to be established first in Alice Springs. I am subject to correction on this because I have had no prior notice of this question whatsoever but I believe it is likely that the funding for the scheme will be contained in next year's budget.

244 Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has he received any state-type delegation from the federal government pertaining to the Petroleum (Submerged Land) Act 1967?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government is about to receive from the Commonwealth authority to issue offshore titles for exploration of oil and gas.

There is an arrangement between the states whereby the federal minister delegates to the state ministers for mines and energy power to issue licences off state coasts. The Northern Territory previously has not had a need for this delegation because the authority has been issued by the Minister for the Northern Territory who was a federal minister. I received a notification the other day from the Minister for National Development, Mr Newman, who said that, with the consent of the Chief Minister and the consent of the Prime Minister, he proposed to have this delegation transferred to me early in the new year so that licences could be issued off the Northern Territory coast by the Northern Territory government.

245 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Notwithstanding the answers he gave me previously this session, I draw his attention to a news report that pensioners in New South Wales only have to pay half the normal fee when obtaining or renewing driving licences, and this is apparently the first move towards total abolition of licence fees for pensioners. Could he indicate whether he will direct his department, as a matter of urgency and high priority, to investigate whether or not a reduced fee for motor vehicle registration could be offered to pensioners in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I do not want to appear a knocker in this particular area because it is of concern and the concern is that there are many types of pensioners that we have to examine. It is not as if it were the old-age pensioners or the war pensioners; there are 5 or 6 different categories. It is a fairly difficult question to come to grips with and there is a lot of money involved. I said the other day there was something like 1,876 people with driver's licences out of the total number of pensioners in the Northern Territory. A decision has not been taken yet but the matter is still under consideration.

246 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In the light of the future roadworks on the Gove Peninsula, has any study been made on the availability of road-making materials, such as laterite, on the peninsula?

ANSWER

Those studies have been made. I understand that you cannot walk over a yard of Nhulunbuy without walking over some substance known as bauxite and there is some difficulty in sorting out where to get the laterite from because it looks very much like bauxite. Those studies have been going on for some time and we will be using local materials when we do that job.

247 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is it a practice of the Housing Commission to perform post-vacation inspections of its premises in the presence of the ex-tenant and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

I do not have specific details of the procedures of the Housing Commission in regard to tenants moving out of houses. However, I will endeavour to obtain the information for the honourable member, with a view to supplying it to the House on the next sitting day.

248 Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Does the Minister intend to issue an information booklet concerning the mining industry in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The short answer is that we would wish to continue a tradition that was set up in about 1960 with the Mines Branch, as it was then known, printing its first book on mining in the Northern Territory. I believe that Minister Patterson, under the Labor government, also authorised a reprint and an update of that book. Since we have come to office, it is our intention that this book be updated and printed annually for the benefit of the mining industry generally throughout the country so that we can present the most current information we have concerning our industry and exploration potential and that industry for future development.

249 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is the site for the proposed casino at Mindil Beach in Darwin within the primary or secondary surge zones and, if so, has the developer been informed of the government's current policy for construction of new buildings within those zones?

ANSWER

The answer to both those questions is yes.

250 Mr COLLINS to TREASURER

Has the Treasurer been advised that a petition with around 1,500 signatures on it, from one third of the residents of Alice Springs, has been collected in reference to a referendum being held before the construction of a casino and that this petition is continuing to collect further signatures?

ANSWER

The answer is yes; I have had a telegram from the organisers of a petition in Alice Springs.

251 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will the customs hall at Darwin Airport be upgraded in 1979?

ANSWER

Knowing the federal government, it might taken them until 1989. I understand that they will do something to Brisbane in 1986 so when it will be Darwin's turn is anybody's guess. The place is in a shambles out there. You cannot park a motor car; it is extremely difficult to get on and off international aircraft. Something needs to be done fairly soon. We have made plenty of representations to the federal people even in respect of the Alice Springs airport where you cannot even have a drink. If you go to Port Hedland in Western Australia, you can step off the plane into the bar and have a cold drink. Even Tennant Creek is in a shambles. You cannot even get a block of land alongside the reserve; a fellow has been trying to get a block of land there for ages. We will give him the block of land, but it is the access to the main reserve that he is concerned about. Our whole

relationship with the federal department is pretty shaky.

252 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does the Northern Territory government intend to review the existing Northern Territory Aerial Medical Service arrangements, whereby TAA supplies staff to the Health Department for that service after 1 January 1979?

ANSWER

TAA has conducted a service of providing aircraft maintenance crews for the Northern Territory Aerial Medical Service for many years now. It is the intention of the Northern Territory government to continue this in the new year.

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PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

Questions are printed in numerical order
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QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 6 MARCH 1979

FROM 21 NOVEMBER 1978

90 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

200 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Why have the Construction Safety Act and Regulations not yet been given a commencing date?

2. When is the act likely to come into effect?

201 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

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

FROM 27 FEBRUARY 1979

228 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

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

256 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

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

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

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

260 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

266 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

268 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Did the Prime Minister write to the Chief Minister during 1978 concerning the proposal by the Heritage Commission to proclaim the Alligator Rivers Region as part of the National Heritage.

2. If so, on what dates?

3. Did the Chief Minister respond?

4. If so, on what dates.

5. Did the Chief Minister object to the proposal?

6. If so, on what terms?

275 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

278 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What is the establishment of -

   (a) the Animal Industry; and

   (b) the Agriculture,

   sections of the Primary Industry Division?

2. Where are the various officers stationed?

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

279 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

283 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

FROM 6 MARCH 1979

288 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

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

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

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

312 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

2. Will these vehicles be air conditioned?

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

342 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that he has written to the Prime Minister requesting the transfer of the Aboriginal housing function to the NT government?

2. If this is the case, has the Prime Minister replied and what are the terms of his reply?

343 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

362 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

363 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is he aware that some parents have expressed a need for suitable bus shelters to be established around Alice Springs for schoolchildren?

2. Has consideration been given by the Department of Education to the provison of suitable bus shelters?

3. Will bus shelters be provided for schoolchildren in the Alice Springs area?

364 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that the display of material that is racist in the Northern Territory does not constitute an unlawful act of racial discrimination within the terms of Racial Discrimination Act 1975?

2. Is it a fact that when Australia ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination it did not declare as offences punishable by law the dissemination of ideas of racial superiority or racial hatred?

3. What action, if any, will be taken by the NT government to encourage the Federal government to change the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 to enable firm action to be taken in respect of people who propagate racist views which are aimed at or have the result of dividing the community on racial or ethnic grounds in the NT?

4. Will the NT government legislate to deal with racism or racial discrimination specifically occurring with the NT?

365 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is Mrs June Tapp of Killarney Station subsidised by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to advise Aboriginals on community work?

2. If so, when was Mrs Tapp appointed to this position and what is the amount of subsidy paid per annum?

3. What amount has she received since her employment to advise Aboriginals?

4. What are her duties and responsibilities in this position and to whom is she responsible?

5. Has she provided regular reports to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs on her work since she became subsidised?

6. Is the subsidy likely to continue indefinitely?

366 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Will the remainder of the road into Standley Chasm be sealed and bituminized?

2. If so, when?

367 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Have detailed studies been carried out on the suitability of the Todd River site north of the Old Telegraph Station as a recreational lake for Alice Springs?

2. If so, what are the results?

3. What advantages does this site have over other locations?

4. Have environmental impact studies been carried out on this site?

5. If so, what are the results?

6. What is the estimated cost of the recreational lake itself?

7. What other recreational facilities will be provided at the recreational lake?

8. What is the estimated cost of these facilities?

9. What specific employment opportunities can be provided with the establishment of a recreational lake?

368 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

1. Will mining royalties paid to Aboriginal land owners in the NT be taxed 32 cents out of each $5?

2. If so, why?

3. Is it a fact that State or Territory government mining royalties are not taxed by Federal government?

4. Will mining royalties which are paid to Aboriginal Land Councils be used for non-profit community advancement projects?

5. If so, why are royalties for non-profit community development being taxed?

3 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

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

3. When will these staff be employed?

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

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

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

ANSWER

1. Total staff 35

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

2. The appropriate staffing level for the Casuarina library is still under review. Seven initial positions are currently being created and recruitment action is in progress.

3. New staff will be employed progressively as the need develops.

4. The Casuarina library is presently expected to open about September 1979.

5. The book stock which is needed will depend on public demand and any future population increase in this area, but is expected to be in excess of 50,000 volumes.

6. The book stock will be progressively processed and made available in the new library. The Casuarina staff to be appointed shortly will be engaged on this task.

5 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

89 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

An application by an Aboriginal is currently being processed.

92 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

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

94 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

98 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. How many betting shops were operating in the Northern Territory on 1/10/78?

2. In what localities were these shops operating, and how many were there in each locality?

3. How many full-time employees were working in Northern Territory betting shops on 1/10/78?

4. How many part-time employees were working in Northern Territory betting shops on 1/10/78?

5. How many betting shops are now opening on fewer days and providing fewer services than was the case on 1/6/78?

6. Which services have been reduced since 1/6/78?

ANSWER

1. On 1 October 1978 there were thirty betting shops operating in the Northern Territory.

2. These shops were operating in the following locations - Darwin 17, Alice Springs 5, Katherine 3, Tennant Creek 3, Nhulunbuy 1 and Groote Eylandt 1.

3. On 1 October 1978 there were 38 full-time employees working in Northern Territory betting shops.

4. On 1 October 1978 there were 83 part-time employees working in Northern Territory betting shops.

5. There are 12 betting shops which reported that at 1 October 1978 they were opening on fewer days and providing fewer services than was the case on 1 June 1978.

6. The services which were reduced varied according to the circumstances. Four shops reported closing for mid-week or evening meetings because there was not sufficient business; four no longer offered quinellas; three had stopped place-cards; and three no longer offered each way doubles. Three shops reported that their upper limit of bets had been reduced and one had recuded the SP limit. Two shops had lifted their minimum bet from $1 to $2, One bookmaker, in Alice Springs, no longer sponsored a radio program which broadcast trotting races.

103 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

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

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

ANSWER

Question 1: Yes.

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

105 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

107 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

110 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

Nil.

111 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS?

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

ANSWER

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

Public Hire Cars as at 14 November 1978

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

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

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

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

113 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

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

115 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What were the findings of the court in relation to an incident in April of this year involving vehicles driven by Timothy John Stuart MacFarlane and Beetaloo John?

2. What prosecutions resulted from the incident; what time elapsed before each of the defendants was brought before the court and what penalty was imposed on each defendant?

ANSWER

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

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

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

Mr MacFarlane fined $60.

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

116 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

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

117 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

118 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

119 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

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

ANSWER

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

120 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT AND WORKS

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

ANSWER

There are three hostels in Katherine.

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

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

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

149 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

150 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

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

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

151 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

152 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is he aware of the concern of railway workers in Alice Springs that Public Service conditions, including air fares, apply to them and, if so, what does he propose to do about it?

2. Why do permanent NT public servants receive air fares to the cities they left voluntarily to take permanent positions in the NT Public Service?

ANSWER

1. I am not aware of the concern of railway workers in Alice Springs that Public Service conditions, including air fares, apply to them, and as such workers are not employees of the Northern Territory Public Service but are employed by and their conditions determined by the Australian National Railways Commission, I am unable to do anything about their conditions.

2. The provision is an entrenched right of transferred employees who currently comprise the majority of the NT Public Service. Discussions are currently being undertaken through the NT Public Service Consultative Council with unions with a view to determining the continued appropriateness of this and other remote locality conditions for recruits to the service.

153 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Did the NT government permit a change in the lease purpose for the Corroboree Motel in Katherine to facilitate its sale to Aboriginal Hostels Limited?

2. If so, and in view of the needs and importance of the tourist industry, why was Aboriginal Hostels Limited not offered land on which to erect its own specially designed accommodation?

ANSWER

1. NT government changed the lease purpose for the Corroboree Motel from "Motel Site" to "Hostel Site" as a result of a private application for rezoning. This application was made under the Town Planning Act (section 38A) in the normal manner by the then owner of the motel.

2. The question of alternative sites did not arise because Aboriginal Hostels Limited purchased (by agreement with the owner) the motel in the usual private manner. The NT government being aware that the removal of the motel as available tourist accommodation may result in a shortage of bed-space has ascertained that adequate suitably zoned land is available and believes that private developers in Katherine will soon overcome any shortfall.

154 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

AMENDMENTS

SCHEDULE
No. 29
Mr Tuxworth

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

NEW CLAUSE

.1 After clause 2 insert the following new clause:

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

CLAUSE 3

.2 Omit proposed new section 7A and substitute:

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

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

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

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

NEW CLAUSE

.3 After clause 3 insert the following new clauses:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) assess royalty; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEW CLAUSES

.4 After clause 4 add the following new clauses:

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

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

199 Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many public servants are employed in the Public Service Commissioner's Unit in the Northern Territory?

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

State	Date	
South Australia	June 1978	197
Western Australia	August 1978	131
Queensland	August 1978	202
Tasmania	August 1978	69

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

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

202 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

203 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. How are tenders advertisied for government contracts in the Nhulunbuy area?

2. Are the Town Bulletin Board and papers circulating in the Nhulunbuy area used for this purpose?

3. Whose responsibility is it to advertise government contracts in the Nhulunbuy area?

ANSWER

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

2. Local advertising is considered adequate.

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

204 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Were tenders called for the cleaning of the Yirrkala School for 1978-79?

2. If so, what method of advertisement was used?

3. If not, why not?

ANSWER

1. No.

2. N/A.

3. For cleaning contracts of schools in Aboriginal communities it is normal practice to canvass the Principal as to the availability of suppliers.

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

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

205 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. When was the last occasion that the Yirrkala road to the Nhulunbuy airport was graded?

2. Was Yirrkala Business Enterprises awarded $26,000 in July last year to maintain the road?

3. Was the work performed?

4. Is a similar program under way this year?

ANSWER

1. The Yirrkala road was last graded in May 1978.

2. No. But the Yirrkala Construction Company Pty Ltd was given a Service Order in May 1978 for $27,000 to maintain both the Yirrkala Road and the Dhumpuma Road.

3. To date $7,000 has been expended.

4. Another grading has just been ordered.

253 Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Who are the current members of the Places Names Committee?

2. Who were members in 1975, 1977 and 1978?

3. How many times did the committee meet during 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978?

4. At what meeting were the street names for the Head Street sub-division in Alice Springs decided, and what members of the Place Names Committee attended that meeting?

ANSWER

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

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

2. (a) Members in 1975:

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

(b) Members in 1976:

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

(c) Members in 1977:

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

(d) Members in 1978:

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

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

3. The Place Names Committee met once in 1975, 1977 and 1978 and did not meet during 1976.

4. The street names for the Head Street sub-division in Alice Springs were considered during two meetings. At the fourteenth meeting on 11/6/74 four names were recommended and the members present were the Chairman Mr E.F. Dwyer and Messrs R.J. Kentish, K. McFarlane and P.J. Wells. The balance of the names were recommended at the seventeenth meeting on 18/5/78 and the members present were the Deputy Chairman Mr G.K. Lindsay (Surveyor General) and Messrs P.G. Spillett and R.J. Kentish.

254 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

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

(a) How many members are there currently on the committee and what are their names;

(b) on what basis was each member of the committee appointed;

(c) what major educational qualifications does each member have;

(d) how often does the committee meet;

(e) what are the main functions of the committee;

(f) are applicants for vacancies on the committee interviewed;

(g) do committee members receive sitting fees or any other fees in connection with their committee work;

(h) what is the usual term of appointment of members?

ANSWER

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

DARWIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A.S.C.C. Committee - Membership

as at November, 1978

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

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

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

DARWIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE COUNCIL 19 July, 1977

ALICE SPRINGS COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE
(Issue 2A)

1. Name:

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

2. Membership:

Membership will be as follows:

a. Three members of the Alice Springs Community appointed by the D.C.C. Council, (see note 1) plus one Councillor from the Alice Springs region.

b. Two elected Staff Members resident in Alice Springs;

c. An elected Alice Springs Student Member;

d. Four members of the Alice Springs Community elected by the Committee (see note 1);

e. The Principal of the D.C.C. and the senior official of Alice Springs College;

f. A Chairman;

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

3. Terms of Office:

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

4. Casual Vacancies:

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

(i) Dies;

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

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

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

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

5. Responsibilities:

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

6. Meetings:

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

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

7. Procedures:

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

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

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

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

8. Officers:

The Officers of the Committee shall be:

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

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

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

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

(i) Be appointed by the Senior Officer of the Alice Springs Community College from the resident staff.

(ii) Serve in this capacity during the currency of his residency in Alice Springs as a staff member of the College, unless replaced by the Senior Officer.

(iii) Be responsible for the support required to service the Committee.

9. Sub-Committees:

a. The Committee shall appoint such sub-committees to undertake specific tasks as deemed desirable.

b. Sub-Committee shall be directly responsible to the Committee.

10. Alteration:

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

NOTE 1:

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

NOTE 2:

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

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

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

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

NOTE 3:

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

(c) This department does not have the education qualifications of each member and they were not available from the Secretary of the Darwin Community College. I would suggest that the honourable member obtain this information directly from the Chairman of the Alice Springs Community College Committee.

(d) The committee meets at intervals of 6 weeks during the months of February to November.

(e) The main functions of the committee are set out in the terms of reference as mentioned above.

(f) Vacancies on the committee are advertised. The applications are discussed by the committee and a decision made on the basis of the application. Applicants are not interviewed.

(g) No one in Alice Springs receives sitting fees for their work on the committee. However, the members from the Darwin Community College do receive fees to attend meetings in Alice Springs.

(h) Usual term of appointment is two years.

255 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

257 Mr ISAACS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. What is the membership of the Northern Territory Law Review Committee?

2. What is its charter?

3. What is the honorarium paid to each member?

ANSWER

1. Schedule

Membership of Northern Territory Law Review Committee

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

2. CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

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

Objects - The objects of the Committee shall be -

(a) To make recommendations for the review or reform of any aspect of law or legal procedure in the Northern Territory that the Committee considers to be necessary or expedient.

(b) To receive and consider proposals from any source for review of the law in the Northern Territory.

(c) Upon the request and reference of the Attorney-General for the Northern Territory to advise upon matters relating to law reform.

(d) To consult and co-operate with the Law Society of the Northern Territory, the Law Reform Commission, other bodies or committees (statutory or otherwise) and any person on matters relating to law reform in the Northern Territory.

(e) To prepare and/or publish such written reports, working papers or minutes as the Committee may determine.

(f) To consider and advise upon the establishment of a full time law reform body in or for the Northern Territory.

Ordinary Membership - The Committee shall comprise -

(a) A Chairman, who shall be a Judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory nominated from time to time by the Chief Judge of that Court.

(b) Four persons to be selected by the Attorney-General for the Northern Territory who are legal practitioners in private practice and who are members of the Law Society of the Northern Territory.

(c) A person nominated by the Attorney-General for the Northern Territory.

(d) Two officers of the Department of Law nominated by the Solicitor-General for the Northern Territory, one of whom shall be a legislative draftsman.

(e) A Magistrate nominated by the Chief Magistrate.

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

Observers - The Committee may invite any person to attend its meetings as an observer or adviser. A person so attending may not vote.

Ex officio membership - The Attorney-General for the Northern Territory shall be an ex officio member of the Committee and shall be entitled to attend all Committee meetings.

Acting Chairman - The Chairman may appoint another Judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory to act as Chairman in his absence provided that if no such Judge is available to act as Chairman at a meeting then the members then present shall by simple majority vote on a show of hands elect one of their members to act as Chairman of that meeting.

Secretary - The Committee shall appoint an Honorary Secretary who shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Committee and shall circulate copies of same to all ordinary and ex officio members and to such other persons as the Committee may determine.

Quorum - The quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be five members.

Venue - Unless otherwise advised the Committee will meet at the Executive Conference Room, 1st Floor Bock 2, Mitchell Street, Darwin.

Voting - Each member shall have one vote on any matter requiring a decision, and in the case of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote. Votes shall be by show of hands unless otherwise determined by the Committee.

Procedure - The procedure at meetings shall be as determined by the Committee, but shall be as simple and free of formality as practicable.

Ordinary Meetings - Unless otherwise determined by the Committee there shall be eleven ordinary meetings of the Committee each year, each meeting to be held at 9.00 a.m. on the first Friday of each calendar month (save for January) in each year. No ordinary meeting shall extend beyond 12.30 p.m., provided that if there is any unfinished business on the agenda at that time, the meeting may be adjourned to another date and time determined by the Committee.

Special Meetings - A special meeting may be called by resolution of the Committee or may be called by the Chairman.

Notice of Meetings The Secretary shall give all members a reminder notice of all ordinary meetings at least 3 clear days before the appointed date and shall give all members at least 7 days notice of a special meeting.

Resignations and Terminations - A member may resign his membership by written notice to the Secretary which shall take effect upon receipt by the Secretary of such notice.

The Committee may terminate the membership of any ordinary member by fourteen days written notice to such member and to the person or body which nominated such member.

Vacancies - Upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the ordinary membership of the Committee, the Secretary shall take steps to ensure a new memmber is nominated as soon as practicable thereafter to fill such vacancy. The proceedings of the Committee shall not be affected or invalidated by the existence of a vacancy or vacancies.

Reports - All written reports, working papers or minutes of the Committee shall be published as the Committee may determine, but in any event shall be made available to the said Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General.

Sub-Committees The Committee may from time to time establish sub-committees of such members and such other persons as the Committee nominates, to consider and report to the Committee on any matter.

Alterations of Constitution - No alteration, addition, amendment or repeal of this Constitution shall be made unless the same is submitted to a meeting of the Committee called for that purpose and then only if the votes recorded in favour of the proposal shall be not less than those of two-thirds of all members present and voting.

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

258 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What is the aggregate amount of loans made by the government to the operators of the Katherine meatworks?

2. What is the amount, interest rate and maturity date of each loan, and what other terms and conditions apply?

ANSWER

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

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

259 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

261 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

262 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

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

ANSWER

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

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

263 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

264 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

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

ANSWER

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

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

The considerations include:

(a) The SA PEB courses and examinations results are accredited to all Australian tertiary institutions. It would take approximately two years to develop similar NT courses and examinations and have them accredited. Community acceptance of such a certificate outside the NT may be difficult.

(b) The cost of setting up and maintaining a fully fledged NT matriculation system would be high.

(c) NT students are not disadvantaged. This year's matriculation results were fully comparable with those of South Australia.

(d) A Committee of Inquiry is meeting in South Australia to revise the PEB's operations. From early reports, the changes likely to be recommended, e.g. a common certificate to include both matriculation and non-matriculation courses results and a better variety of courses seem to meet our current criticisms. The report will need to be closely studied to determine whether it meets our needs.

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

(a) the structure of secondary school;

(b) the content of the secondary school curriculum;

(c) accreditation of courses;

(d) methods of assessment of pupil achievement; and

(e) ways of reporting to parents and employers.

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

265 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will Mataranka School be open in 1979?

ANSWER

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

267 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

(a) each Minister;

(b) the Leader of the Opposition?

ANSWER

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

At 1 January 1979, the following staff were employed:

1. CHIEF MINISTER/ATTORNEY GENERAL

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

2. TREASURER/MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

3. MINISTER for HEALTH/MINES and ENERGY

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

4. MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/EDUCATION

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

5. MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS/INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

   1 Ministerial Officer Grade 3
   1 Private Secretary
   1 Ministerial Secretary

6. LEADER of the OPPOSITION

   2 Ministerial Officers Grade 1
   1 Ministerial Secretary

269 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

270 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. On what day did the Feral Animal Inquiry commence?

2. What is the daily rate paid to each member of the Feral Animal Inquiry?

3. In which places and for how many days in each place has the Inquiry taken evidence?

4. How much has been paid to the Chairman and each member of the Inquiry by way of -

   (a) daily fees;

   (b) travelling allowance; and

   (c) incidental expenses?

ANSWER

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

inspections commenced shortly thereafter.

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

Fees	- chairman:	$70.00 per day;
	- members:	$60.00 per day each.
Travelling allowance	- all members:	$50.00 per day.

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

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

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

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

271 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Does the government intend to outlaw the driving of lazy axle trucks on Territory roads?

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

ANSWER

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

272 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Why was tender TB 2025/78 computer facilities cancelled?

2. Is it anticipated that a new computer will be purchased this financial year?

ANSWER

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

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

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

273 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Was an assessment made of the financial impact of a casino on the business communities in Darwin and Alice Springs? If so, will the Minister make public the terms of the assessment?

2. What is the cost of replacing the Mindil Beach Caravan Park on another site?

3. Who is paying for the replacement of the Caravan Park?

4. Does the cost include all internal and external electrical, water, sewer, roads, kiosk, ablution blocks, caretaker accommodation, beautification, etc, services for the replacement park?

5. Will the proposed caravan park comply with the standards of the Caravan Parks Act?

6. What guarantees do the citizens of Darwin have that they will not contribute to the replacement of the park?

7. What additional income does the government expect to get from the proposed casino if it is sited at Mindil Beach rather than other sites, e.g. the Esplanade or the victualling yards?

8. Was each of the tenderers advised of the availability of the Mindil Beach site, if not, at what stage were tenderers advised of the availability of the site?

9. Is the Darwin City Council expected to gain income from the move? If so, how much per year?

10. What rental will Federal Pacific Hotels be charged for the Mindil Beach site?

11. What extra expenditure will be required by government for licensing, police, hospital services, social services, taxation, as a result of the establishment of casinos at Darwin and Alice Springs?

12. What information is available to assess the social impact of a casino in:

    (a) Darwin; and

    (b) Alice Springs?

13. What written guarantees have been established that local employees and contractors will be used in the construction and operation of casinos?

14. Will the Mindil Beach Caravan Park's replacement be constructed so that the Darwin City Council will not lose revenue. If not, what compensation will be paid to the council for this loss of revenue?

15. What compensation is being paid to the Darwin City Council for the acquisition of their land?

ANSWER

1. Each applicant represented the likely effect on the business community to the Assessment Panel. The upsurge in tourism and business generally following the opening of the Wrest Point Hotel-Casino in Hobart was also taken into account. The outlook for Territory tourism and related industries through the establishment of the Darwin and Alice Springs complexes is exceedingly bright.

2. Depends on the standards adopted. The existing park is substantially below standard. Replacement to a high standard is estimated at $1.7m by our own engineers and $2.5m by those retained by the Council.

3. The Darwin City Council would if they chose to establish another park

4. Yes.

5. It is understood the Council has no wish to re-enter the caravan park business in the immediate future. However, if they do construct another park it would comply with legislation in force at the time.

6. See answer to question 5. However, if Council resolves to establish another park at some future date finance required in excess of available funds and usual subsidies would be raised by the Council by loan with loan servicing from revenue of the park.

7. The question is academic. Each site has its own costs to the developer including establishment or upgrading of services, acquisition, engineering and ability to occupy a site at an early date. Taxation levels therefore must relate to the projected viability of the project. It is unlikely that the chosen developer would have proceeded in Darwin with the same complex and same taxation levels on a site other than Mindil.

8. Other applicants on the final short list had their own preferred sites. Each was informed that they could vary their proposal to specify other sites which would be considered on the merits of the proposal.

9. The Council will gain about $8,000 p.a. by way of rates from the project. Additionally, the Council will have at its disposal an agreed compensation sum of $700,000 and interest on that sum should it be invested will substantially exceed profit from the existing park. Council's published estimates for 1978-79 showed the Corporation estimated income of $10,000 from the existing park. If it was to go ahead with a replacement caravan park, the expected income would only be able to be calculated by the Council in the light of a range of policy decisions they must take.

10. The lease will cost Federal Hotels $700,000 and in common with all DTAL's no rent will be demanded.

11. Licensing control over both centres is expected to cost in the vicinity of $200,000 p.a. Any extra governmental activity is expected to be within the capacity of services already provided.

12. As there is no Territory precedent the only information is that available from other places where casinos operate. The Tasmanian model in terms of law, method of operation and standards was closely studied. There have been no discernable adverse social effects from that hotel-casino. The social impact has been that of a job creator and stimulus to Tasmanian tourism as well as retail trade and similar effects to the Territory are indicated.

13. Construction contracts will be awarded by tender and the company has adopted the view that Territory companies will be selected provided they are competitive. Federal Hotels has a good record of using local contractors and employees and will continue this corporate policy in the Territory. Staff within the hotel-casino will be drawn from the Territory with the possible initial exception of certain key managerial ranks. If satisfactory recruits are not available for all positions locally then no doubt the company would have to opt for interstate recruitment.

14. See answers Nos 5 and 9. Replacement of the caravan park is a matter for Council decision. Compensation includes provision for settlement of contractual commitments.

15. The compensation for improvements and commitments will be $700,000, the guarantee of an alternative caravan park site if required, and certain salvage rights on the old site.

274 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

276 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Is it a fact that imported fertilizers cost close to $200 per tonne in the Territory?

2. Does the cost of imported fertilizers make agriculture uneconomic in the higher rainfall of the Territory?

3. What fertilizers are available for import from South-East Asia?

4. What assistance or encouragement is given to the production of fertilizers in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

1. Yes, superphosphate costs between $160-200 per tonne while other fertilizers cost considerably more.

2. No, however, high fertilizer costs are a large component of operational costs and any substantial reduction in their cost would improve industry economics.

3. I understand that a full range of fertilizers is available in South-East Asia.

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

277 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Who advises the Minister on tropical agriculture trends?

ANSWER

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

280 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the Primary Industry Division and the former Animal Industry Branch conducted trials and experiments with Banteng cattle and, if so, over what period?

2. Are the results of any such trials and experiments available to the public? If not, will the Minister make them available?

3. Why cannot Northern Territory pastoralists obtain the Banteng cattle strain?

ANSWER

1. Yes. Research commenced at Beatrice Hill in 1963 and is still continuing. Current trials include comparative production to Brahman cross cattle and crossbreeding performance.

2. Research results have been made available to the public.

3. Bali cattle have a very low capacity to increase herd numbers due to a very high mortality rate in young stock which can be as high as 80% in stock up to 16 months of age. The current domestic herd at Beatrice Hill is very small. Uncontrolled use of Bali cattle on pastoral properties would inevitably lead to major genetic and management problems. Future co-operative use of Bali cattle is possible but it must form an integral part of a fully controlled and constructive development program.

281 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

282 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

284 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

285 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

286 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

287 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

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

3. How much has been paid to the Chairman of the Feral Animal Inquiry for incidentals in connexion with the inquiry?

ANSWER

1. An amount of $9,450 has been paid to the Chairman of the Feral Animal Inquiry as daily fees in connexion with the inquiry.

2. An amount of $5,826 has been paid to the Chairman of the Feral Animal Inquiry for travelling allowance in connexion with the inquiry.

3. No expenditure has been incurred by the Chairman of the Feral Animal Inquiry for incidentals in connexion with the inquiry.

289 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Leave granted.

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

290 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

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

ANSWER

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

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

291 Mr OLIVER to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

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

292 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

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

293 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

294 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

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

295 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

Mrs Lawrie: Why not?

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

296 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

297 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

298 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

ANSWER

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

299 Mr BALLANTYNE to TREASURER

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

ANSWER

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

300 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

301 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for ALNDS and HOUSING

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

ANSWER

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

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

302 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

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

ANSWER

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

303 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

304 Mr BALLANTYNE to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

ANSWER

No.

306 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORTS and RECREATION

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

ANSWER

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

307 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

308 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

309 Mr OLIVER to TREASURER

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

ANSWER

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

310 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

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

ANSWER

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

311 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

313 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

314 Mr Oliver to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

ANSWER

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

315 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

ANSWER

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

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

316 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

ANSWER

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

317 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

318 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

ANSWER

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

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

320 Mr BALLANTYNE to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

321 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

322 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

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

323 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

I ask him to place his question on notice.

324 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

325 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

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

326 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

327 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

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

328 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

ANSWER

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

329 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

330 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

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

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

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

ANSWER

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

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

332 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

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

ANSWER

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

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

333 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

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

ANSWER

Yes.

334 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER

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

ANSWER

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

335 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

336 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

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

337 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

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

ANSWER

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

338 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

339 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

340 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

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

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

ANSWER

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

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

341 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

ANSWER

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

344 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

345 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

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

346 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

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

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

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

ANSWER

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

347 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

348 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

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

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

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

ANSWER

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

349 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

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

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

350 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

ANSWER

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

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

351 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

352 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

I am not aware of advising the opposition that I would be making this statement today. If the opposition chooses to decide from reading newspaper reports when matters will come on in this House, then I cannot help it. I have certainly circulated copies of the statement to members of the opposition and they are aware of its contents. It is my intention to deliver the statement on Tuesday morning.

353 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Does the Chief Minister recall writing to me as late as last Monday advising that he would be delivering a statement this morning on the subject which the member for Arnhem raised?

ANSWER

I do recall writing to the honourable Leader of the Opposition but I do not recall exactly the contents of the letter. I recall saying to him that we would be making a statement on transport which we hoped would be debated on Tuesday, and that we would then make statements on health, employment and on public roads on Aboriginal lands.

354 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What is the government's policy in relation to the disposal of its demountables and caravans?

ANSWER

The government's policy is to get rid of the demountables before they disintegrate into dust; they have been around for too long. We are working on a program of departmental requirements. A certain number have been put aside for the operations of the Territory Development Corporation. We will also be getting rid of the caravans along the highway. We are having an auction to dispose of those on 30 March.

355 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER

When will the previous owners' heirs receive compensation for land occupied by the Northern Territory government for a pine tree plantation on Howard Springs Road? This land was compulsorily acquired in the 1930s.

ANSWER

I suggest that she place the question on notice.

356 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Why was it necessary for 8 members of the staff of the Department of Community Development to travel to Alice Springs at considerable public expense to appear before the Welfare Needs Inquiry? Why was it not possible for the inquiry to travel to Darwin for this purpose?

ANSWER

I find the question rather extraordinary. Why ask me? The inquiry is one that was set up by this Assembly. I would suggest that she is perfectly entitled to contact the chairman and ask why he chose to sit in Alice Springs and call for those officers.

357 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

He stated in reply to a previous question that lease document proposals concerning Kulaluk had been sent to the Aboriginal Development Foundation. Were they also sent to the people principally concerned at Kulaluk, the traditional owners and to whom is it expected that the lease will be issued, the Aboriginal Development Foundation or traditional owners at Kulaluk?

ANSWER

I understand the Aboriginal Development Foundation is acting on behalf of the claimants of the area.

Mrs LAWRIE: The claimants do not know that.

Mr PERRON: That is funny because I was at a meeting with members of both groups in the Chief Minister's office to discuss Kulaluk. The correspondence that has been entered into is the draft lease conditions to test the reaction as to whether they would be acceptable. I do not know if an exercise has been taken separately to serve it on the claimants themselves. At this stage, I could not advise her in whom the lease will be vested. It will be an association - I would like to make that clear. I am opposed to vesting such leases in individuals because that is not quite within the spirit of the way the government is accepting needs claims within towns in the Northern Territory.

358 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does the government propose to introduce legislation for the control of noise in industry and, if so, when might we expect this legislation to come before the House?

ANSWER

My understanding is that that legislation would fall within the ambit of the Chief Minister under his environment responsibilities.

359 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Could he indicate to the House when anti-noise legislation will be introduced to the Assembly?

ANSWER

I cannot indicate exactly when noise pollution legislation will be introduced into the Assembly. Certain work is going on to prepare this type of legislation. Nevertheless, I would refer honourable members to the Summary Offences Act which was passed by this Assembly last year. I believe that that legislation would afford some relief to persons who may be being harassed by noise.

360 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he consider developing boat ramp facilities at the town beach at Nhulunbuy for the disadvantaged people in that town?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the proposition to construct a ramp in the town of Nhulunbuy. However, it is something that no doubt the township is anxious to have for its recreational needs. I shall ask my department to advise me as to what this proposal might be.

361 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he explain to the House why it is that the Police Administration Act and the Summary Offences Act, although they have received assent, have not yet come into force?

ANSWER

I believe the reason the Police Administration Act has not yet been proclaimed is that the regulations have yet to be prepared. Instructions for their preparation, I understand, are presently with the draftsmen and I believe the intention is to bring the act and regulations into force at the one time.

369 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Did the Chief Minister personally interview Mr Terry Vine for the position of director of the Office of Information, a position in the Northern Territory Public Service?

ANSWER

In relation to Mr Vine whose name has appeared in the press in the course of the last couple of days, I think it would be proper for me to inform the House of some of the history of this appointment. Mr Vine's name was first drawn to our attention by Mr Peter Simon, an officer of the Department of the Chief Minister in the information section, who interviewed applicants for the position of editor of publications. Mr Simon, I understand, appeared to think that Mr Vine had qualifications which extended beyond the field of the position of editor of publications and some time later, when I was in Melbourne with the Solicitor-General for a conference of a subordinate committee of the Constitutional Convention, I did indeed have discussions with Mr Vine in the presence of the Solicitor-General and in the presence of a member of my staff. I understand that after those discussions Mr Vine was interviewed by an assistant public service commissioner and another person whose name does not readily spring to mind.

370 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is the minister aware of an application from the Rotary Club of North Darwin for a section of land on which to establish an equestrian centre and, if the minister is aware of this applicaton, what is the delay in approving the application?

ANSWER

I am aware of such an applicaton by the North Darwin Rotary Club for land for activities related to horses and I understand that the delay has been somewhat associated with the adoption of the new 1978 Darwin Town Plan which the planners were naturally anxious to see finally adopted before approving new leases of land in outlying areas. In addition to this there is some disagreement between the applicants and the planning branch as to where this particular activity should be sited and I believe that, if the matter goes on for any longer, I may have to intervene myself and see if I cannot get some agreement by all parties as to the most suitable site for this activity, bearing in mind that a number of other organisations connected with horsing in the Territory and the Top End are also making applications for land and I think we should look at them collectively.

371 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Did the Chief Minister, in the presence of an officer of the Northern Territory Public Service, inform Mr Vine that he, the Chief Minister, would approach the Public Service Commissioner to suspend Mr Vine?

ANSWER

I think this question also warrants a little explanation. Certain documents came into my possession last week - I think last Wednesday or Thursday evening - and I would like to read one of the documents which is similar to another that also came into my possession. The document is a letter carrying the signature of Mr Vine addressed to Mr Len Cossey, manager of Feature Service, John Fairfax and Sons Pty Ltd, Broadway,

Sydney: "Dear Len, I have the temerity to enclose for your consideration a short piece on mode of dress for the NT's new casinos. I offer it to you for your usual substantial fee (New South Wales rights only) and you have it exclusively. If you have no objection I will continue to offer such pieces now and then. I met you once some time ago when I was in Sydney but I do not hold you to remembering that. I am better known amongst the sports staffs of both the Herald and the Sun through my association with them as sports editor of the Melbourne Herald. Should you bump into any of the sports blokes in the corridors, I would appreciate it if you would pass on my regards," and so on.

As a result of these documents coming into my possession, I consulted with the Public Service Commissioner the following morning and I consulted at the same time with the Solicitor-General. I sought the advice of these two experienced men as to what course of action should be taken. I might point out, Mr Speaker, that at the time the Director-General of my department was absent interstate and I was informed by the Public Service Commissioner that, since Mr Vine worked almost directly to me, I should probably interview him myself in the presence of a senior official of the department and inform him that it was likely that his suspension would be sought by the department from the Public Service Commissioner.

372 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Did in fact the Chief Minister say to Mr Vine, or words to this effect, that he could no longer trust him and that he would have to take his own course of action?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I said words to Mr Vine to the effect that I could no longer repose any confidence in him. I certainly did not say anything to him which would indicate that he should take a course of action such as resignation. In my view it was a situation where the Director of Information, a senior executive of the Northern Territory government employed in the Chief Minister's Department, receiving a salary of $24,000 per annum and having access to cabinet documents and to all the most confidential material of government, had shown within 2 weeks of his appointment that for the payment of a usual substantial fee he was going to offer such pieces now and then. This indicated an intention to pursue a consistent course of action of selling information which came into his possession as a highly paid servant of the Northern Territory government. I felt that an inquiry was warranted and that his suspension was warranted pending the outcome of that inquiry. My feeling that his suspension was warranted was supported by 2 of the most senior officials in the public service whom I have just mentioned.

373 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In view of the opening of Sadadeen High School which fronts Undoolya Road and the increase in the number of children riding bicycles in that area, could the minister please advise what action is being taken to improve the poor condition of the edge of the road?

ANSWER

I suppose it would be true to say that with the advent of the new Sadadeen High School, the whole capacity and use of Undoolya Road is necessarily altered. It has certainly come to my attention, having driven along that road a number of times recently, that it is inadequate

- not just on the edges, I would think, but probably in its overall width and traffic carrying capacity, particularly having regard to this government's concern to provide safe avenues for people to ride push bikes. It is also a matter of concern to the local council. Discussions are taking place at the moment between the works manager of the Alice Springs council, which incidentally has responsibility for that road, and my department. I would anticipate shortly an application by the Alice Springs town council for approved project funding for that road and I would hope that, funds permitting and having regard to the overall budgetry requirements of the Northern Territory government during the year, we should be able to have roadworks commenced this coming financial year.

374 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

Did a ministerial officer first show him the articles written by Mr Vine and did the Treasurer subsequently cause the articles to be shown to the Chief Minister?

ANSWER

The information was in fact shown to me in relation to previous questions raised in this House to the Chief Minister and I brought the matter to the Chief Minister's attention, as I felt I most certainly should have done and would do again if the same circumstance arose.

375 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the Corporation of the City of Darwin or any other town council in the Northern Territory can unilaterally extend their boundaries?

ANSWER

The most effective answer to that question would just be "no" but I suppose the honourable member is entitled to a little more information than that. The process of extending the municipal boundaries of any town council is a matter for the Executive Council and the proposal normally arises from a request by the municipality that it wants to extend its present boundary. There has been a bill before the House to extend the capacity of councils to act outside their municipal boundaries but no city council has the power to unilaterally extend its boundary. It would not normally be the government's attitude to extend the municipal boundaries until such time as it feels, without being Big Brother about it, that municipal councils are capable of conducting the functions they already have within their present boundaries. I am certainly aware that many ratepayers in a number of municipalities are not completely happy with the performance of the councils at the moment. This is a matter of funding, government support and encouragement of councils. It would be very difficult for the Darwin city corporation, with the greatest respect to the people working there, to extend its boundaries when many people complain about the state of the footpaths outside of their houses. The honourable member for Nightcliff, for example, was greatly concerned at the high grass adjacent to school crossings which constitutes a serious danger to children using those crossings. I think it is a matter of doing well with what you have and then proceeding from there.

376 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Chief Minister seen the allegation in the Northern Territory News, and I believe transmitted on ABC radio as well, that a minister of his government has tape recorded interviews without the interviewees'

knowledge? Can he confirm whether the allegation is correct?

ANSWER

This again is like the mishmash of allegations that have been conveyed in the media and by the executive of the Australian Journalists Association that I have seen in the last couple of days. I would hasten to point out that I was not in Darwin on Friday and did not have the pleasure of seeing Mr Vine on television. Certainly, no minister of my government records conversations of people without their prior permission. I know of only one instance where people's conversations have been recorded and that was in the normal course of events at a meeting. It is common practice for tape recorders to be used by journalists at meetings and at press conferences. This was a meeting between the Treasurer and the Save Mindil Committee. The tape recording was made with the approval of the committee as the many matters that were canvassed required that a transcript or record of the proceedings be kept.

I think it is a shame that this whole matter of Mr Vine's resignation or suspension has got out of hand because, after all, Mr Vine has a career to pursue. Perhaps I could read to the House his letter of resignation. I might say that I did not lightly take the decision to suspend Mr Vine or rather recommend Mr Vine's suspension to the Public Service Commissioner. Mr Vine's family is known to me and it was a very serious step for me to recommend to the Public Service Commissioner his suspension. Mr Vine wrote a letter of resignation to the Director-General on 2 March:

> *This may come as a surprise but I think I should resign my position as Director, Office of Information, to take effect from 16 March. I realise that after only a fortnight in the job this may appear premature but I do not think that I am cut out for the role you see in your Director of Information. My life has always been involved in writing and I had hoped that the role here would be a journalistic one. Because of the isolation and high cost of getting here, is there any way please you can consider paying my return costs to Melbourne? Thank you very much for your past courtesy, with every good wish.*

377 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Could the honourable minister explain what steps are being taken to provide regular visits to Northern Territory medical centres by specialists such as orthopaedic surgeons and orthodontists?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Medical Service provides medical specialists at Alice Springs and Darwin hospitals. These hospitals provide a regular schedule of visits to outlying areas such as hospitals at Nhulunbuy, Tennant Creek and Katherine, and specialists do go to more remote areas from time to time. The particular areas of medicine that are covered by these specialists are anaesthesia, dermatology, general survey, general medicine, obstetrics and gynaecology, opthalmology, pediatrics and psychiatry.

Unfortunately, there is no specialist orthopaedic surgeon in the Northern Territory at the moment and such work is done by general practitioners and surgeons. In some cases, patients are transferred south to see specialists down there. It is planned that in the not too distant future the department will be recruiting a specialist orthopaedic surgeon to be based in Darwin.

So far as orthodontists are concerned, we have discussed this matter many times in the House and the position is very much the same. It is not a matter of restrictions on finance but one of the physical capacity of the Northern Territory Medical Service to recruit a person from anywhere in the world to practise and carry out his profession within a government instrumentality. The reality is that there are very few orthodontists working in medical services in Australia. The majority opt to become private practitioners and receive the rewards of private practice. We have open to us now a new option that has not been available before and that is to recruit public sevice people who are not British subjects. The department is looking to America to see if we can recruit people there to fill the positions that we have available. I can assure the honourable member that there is absolutely no intention on my part or that of the department to let the matter lie. We will pursue it until we have recruited the people, however long it takes.

378 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

Will the minister cease the practice of tape recording interviewees without their knowledge?

ANSWER

The only time I have ever used a tape recording at a meeting in my office was with a group of citizens concerned about the school bus service. I have never used a tape recorder in any other circumstances.

379 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How many unoccupied government-owned, residential demountables remain to be disposed of?

ANSWER

A total of 188 demountables have been transferred from the Housing Commission. 89 of these have been transferred to other departments; 51 have been provisionally allocated to the Territory Development Corporation; 28 are currently being inspected by various departments and instrumentalities, and 20 have been allocated for sale to the public. I understand that 262 residential demountables are still occupied by Housing Commission tenants and these will eventually be transferred to the Department of Transport and Works for disposal.

380 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Why was the head of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations dispatched last Thursday to the Office of Information to seek out sensitive files?

ANSWER

The head of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations is the third most senior public servant in my department. He was close to hand when it occurred to me that there would be documents such as cabinet submissions held in the Office of Information by the Director of Information and that it would be a prudent course, in view of the fact that Mr Vine had indicated his intention to "offer such pieces now and then", that this sort of information be retrieved from that office. In any event, I make this point quite clear - and I have sought advice on it from the people who should be able to give me advice - it is the prerogative of a senior official of a department to inspect files anywhere in his department and there is absolutely no harm done in that at all. For persons in the Office

of Information to feel aggrieved by this seems to indicate that they are running some sort of principality of their own. We have heard a great deal about ethics in this whole debate - ethics that are not matched by any knowledge of the work ethic, in my opinion, and I would simply like to say that there will be no retraction of the right of senior officials of public service departments to inspect files and, indeed, to open government mail in government envelopes that is going through a government franking machine, if that is considered to be necessary.

381 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What is being done to control the invasion of mimosa weed on the Adelaide River flood plains south of the Marrakai Plains and east of the Adelaide River?

ANSWER

The primary industry division has let a two-year contract for control and eradication of this weed by spraying areas of mimosa adjacent to roads and crossings in the Adelaide River township, Tortilla Flats, Arnhem Highway, Marrakai Crossing and Batchelor regions.

382 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Obviously, mail from Mr Vine was intercepted and opened. My question is, was this mail opened by an officer of the Northern Territory Public Service and, if so, why was not the opened mail taken to a more senior officer of the public service rather than to the minister?

ANSWER

To be quite honest, Mr Speaker, I do not know in fact who opened the mail but it came to me through my deputy leader and I cannot think of any more senior person in the administration below me than the Treasurer and Minister for Lands and Housing. I have already indicated to the House this morning that the Director-General of my department was absent from the Northern Territory at the time this incident occurred and certainly it would have been much better, I believe, if the Director-General had been personally present and able to handle the situation. Nevertheless, in his absence certain steps had to be taken.

383 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can the honourable minister inform me when the future of Dhupuma College will be decided and, if Dhupuma College closes this year, what arrangements will be made to assist the teaching and industrial staff in obtaining new positions of employment for the future of the Aboriginal students' education?

ANSWER

The principal concern I have in respect of Dhupuma is for the children - the point the honourable member mentioned last, and I am quite sure he did not consciously do that, In the event of Dhupuma having to be phased out - and I will touch on that in a moment - the students would be given the best possible placements commensurate with their circumstances. This would be either at the new Nhulunbuy High School or at Kormilda College or as appropriate to their level of education. The teaching staff would be redeployed to satisfactory teaching positions. A sufficient wind-down time would be given to industrial staff to ensure that there were no redundencies as a result of any decision which may occur in respect of the college.

I would think that from July we will probably undertake a study of Dhupuma College in terms of its physical capacity to remain an institution for education in the Northern Territory. I would love to see it continue and when I become minister responsible for the function, we will do everything we can to see that it is continued. There is, however, an economic reality about it. The building has reached the end of its present life. On that there is no doubt whatsoever. It then comes to the question whether we repair something that has gone beyond its normal economic life. That, of course, is squandering the taxpayers' money.

The only other alternative would be to rebuild another Dhupuma College and, of course, that again would seem to me a possible waste of taxpayers' money having regard to the building of a completely new multi-million dollar high school for Nhulunbuy which will allow the present area schools to very adequately serve the primary and high school requirements.

The only other question which would be left unanswered would be that of accommodation. We are well aware, from our experience in the Northern Territory, of the impact it has on Aboriginal children to be taken from one cultural or one geographic area in which their culture is located, and transported to another. This is to be avoided wherever possible.

It is a matter of regret that Dhupuma College has been allowed, due to fiscal restraints, to get into a state which has probably accelerated the end of its economic life. The problem is a vexed one, Mr Speaker, and the decisions that will be taken by government will no doubt be taken in consultation with the honourable member for Nhulunbuy and in consultation with the communities affected by any such decision. Whatever decision is made, it is either going to be a very hard decision or a very expensive one.

384 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

Can the Treasurer inform the House which ministerial officer handed him or his ministerial officer the documents relating to the Vine articles?

ANSWER

The honourable Leader of the Opposition is trying to put words into my mouth. He is saying "which ministerial officer". In his previous question to the Chief Minister he asked whether it was a public servant or otherwise who was handling these particular documents. It is interesting that we should have this question from the Leader of the Opposition who at previous time in this House has referred to government information of a confidential nature having come into his hands by falling off the back of a truck. I could use the same pathetic excuse, Mr Speaker, but I will not. To be perfectly honest, at the time the documents were presented to me I was so alarmed that such documents did exist and by the inferences I drew from them that I did not ask who, in fact, intercepted the mail and I do not know to this day which officer in our organisation intercepted and opened the mail.

385 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What is being planned for the cleared area of the former pine plantation on the Howard Springs road which is currently being used as a track for motor bikes?

ANSWER

I understand it is proposed by the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission, which has responsibility for that area of land, that eucalypts be

planted in the area. In relation to the use of the area by motor cycles, the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission cannot find any evidence of usage of the area by organised groups although there may be such usage from time to time by individuals.

386 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that, having written the article on dress for the casinos, Mr Vine showed it to a senior press officer of the Chief Minister's Department who offered the comment to Mr Vine that it was a good article, likely to appear in the southern press and this would be desirable for the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I am aware that Mr Vine showed the article to my press officer. However, he did not show him the letter to which I have referred and I think it was not unreasonable for my press officer to assume that Mr Vine was putting the article out as Director of Information and it would be included in the work value that we could expect for his $24,000 annual salary.

387 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER

Who issued the demolition orders for the destruction and removal of houses in the 32-square-mile acquisition area and what is the cost of the Northern Territory government of this demolition work?

ANSWER

Demolition orders were issued by the manager of estates of the Housing Commission, following a meeting between myself and senior officers of the Housing Commission on 15 January at which meeting it was agreed that unserviceable dwellings would be demolished in the 32-square-mile area where they were vacant. The cost of upgrading some of these houses to cyclone standard - and the government should not, of course, be renting houses which are not to cyclone standard - is near or beyond the cost of replacing the houses. In these cases it was felt that, as the premises were vacant, they should be demolished. Four dwellings, some of them with out-buildings, were demolished. The cost to the Northern Territory government was approximately $4,000. I point out that the Department of the Northern Territory itself, when it existed, had the houses marked as ready for demolition before we took them over on 1 July last year.

388 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that, when Mr Vine was initially interviewed, he mentioned to one of the interviewing people that he would wish to continue in some capacity with freelance work if he was recruited for the Northern Territory and he was not advised then that this would be impossible? Is the Chief Minister also aware that, upon his arrival in the Northern Territory, he also expressed this view to an officer of the Northern Territory Public Service and again was not told that it was contrary to public service regulations and that he could in no capacity freelance? In other words, he had no idea of the seriousness of his action in relation to this particular article nor of the implications placed on it by the Chief Minister.

ANSWER

I can only be aware of discussions that took place in front of me, unless I am informed by others. I have not been informed by any of the public servants who interviewed Mr Vine that is, Mr Peter Simon in the first instance and the two subsequent interviewers at some later stage - whether he asked them if it would be permissible for him to freelance. I would expect that an assistant public service commissioner would have sufficient knowledge to be able to inform him that it would not be permissible. In the case of the discussions with Mr Vine that took place in front of me in Melbourne, with the Solicitor-General and my press officer present, I can assure honourable members and you, Mr Speaker, that there was no mention of any possibility of freelancing. Mr Vine did not put any such request to me or to either of those other gentlemen in my presence, and I am authorised by the Solicitor-General to indicate that that is his recollection of the conversation as well.

389 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

If those blocks in the 32-square-mile acquisition area are to be leased, sold or otherwise disposed of in the future, why was not consideration given to leasing them with the dwellings on them, at greater advantage to the Northern Territory government and resources generally, having regard to the constructiveness and building ingenuity of the people who go to live in the rural area?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, the good intentions and ingenuity of people may sometimes result in poor dwellings remaining for many years, be it in the rural area of Darwin or elsewhere. In the opinion of the government engineers and building inspectors, the houses that were demolished were considered to be uneconomic to repair and were in a dangerous state. In the event of another cyclone, they could have injured persons or property in the vicinity. It would have cost the government almost as much to repair the houses as to replace them. Some of these houses were quite old and were partly damaged during the cyclone. Some of them required electrical work to be done and would have been a hazard if the government rented or sold them. I do not believe the government acted improperly at all. I approved the action so that these houses will not continue to deteriorate while the future of the land in question is determined.

390 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Apart from Mr Vine's appointment, which other positions in the Northern Territory Public Service has he, as Chief MInister, been personally involved in interviewing applicants?

ANSWER

I have been present at interviews of a number of people. For instance, I was present with the Director-General and other officers of the Northern Territory Public Service when candidates for the Office of Policy and Planning were interviewed. Indeed, I interviewed the Solicitor-General for appointment to the Northern Territory Public Service and also the Public Service Commissioner himself. At one stage, we had about 3 people in our public service and we just had to get things done. The niceties to which the Leader of the Opposition refers were not always practicable. Wherever it has been possible, there has always been an officer present. Indeed, it is difficult for me to recall any interview

discussions - and they have all been formal interviews - that I may have had with candidates for the Northern Territory Public Service where there has not been at least one senior official present and often more than one.

392 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

Can the Treasurer inform the Assembly when the public accounts for the December 1978 quarter will be published in the Gazette, according to the Financial Administration and Audit Act?

ANSWER

Within the last couple of days I have received from the Treasury Department a copy of the documents that the honourable Leader of the Opposition mentioned and have arranged to have talks with the Under-Treasurer on the presentation of those reports before authorising that they be printed in the Gazette. However, I expect that this will be done within a few days.

393 Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

Reference was made in 1977 by the Treasurer to the advantages of the Northern Territory changing its present financial year to end on 31 December each year. Would the Treasurer advise the Assembly of the government's attitude and intentions regarding such a change?

ANSWER

The question of changing the financial year for the Northern Territory is a complex one. There are a number of advantages and disadvantages some of which I have outlined earlier in the House. Among the advantages is the prospect that it would no longer be necessary to have a supply period at the start of each financial year since the amount of the Commonwealth's subvention for the Territory would be known at the time of the preparation of our budget. There could also be advantages in terms of the work program in the private sector. On the other hand, it is obvious that there would be some disadvantages and problems associated with such a changeover. There would be a need for various legislative changes and for a transitional fiscal year of either 6 or 18 months. It would be necessary to consider the implications for the private sector in such budgetary changes.

Before a decision is taken on the question it will be necessary to examine further the advantages and disadvantages and to this end I would want to have the benefit of at least one full budget cycle under the existing system before deciding whether the change is warranted. The matter, therefore, will be considered further by the government when we have had more experience with the operations of the present system.

394 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

My question concerns the operation of the Katherine Rural Education Centre management committee. Have any public meetings been held in regard to this committee, who are the members of the committee and what interests do they represent, and were they appointed or selected?

ANSWER

My understanding of the committee for the Katherine Rural Education Centre is that 4 were to be appointed from the urban area, 4 from the rural area with 1 representative of the Department of Education and, I assume, 1 representative of the Darwin Community College. As I understand it, it is only quite recently that applications have been called from the rural area. As you are aware, Sir, I am not at all happy with progress in relation to the Rural Education Centre and I think it is high time that I took a very active and personal interest in it. To

that end there will be a meeting in my office to which you are invited, Sir. I have also asked Dr Eedle and the liaison officer to the Northern Territory government, Mr Chard, to be there. I think it would probably be appropriate - and I hope the staff are listening - that we invite an appropriate person from the Darwin Community College and I wonder whether the honourable member for Arnhem might like to attend and, for that matter, any other member who has a particular interest in the Katherine Rural Education Centre, so that we can sit around in a non-party manner and at that level try to work out what we feel should be done. Following that, I undertake to go to Katherine probably next week and speak to the people down there personally to see what initiatives we can take to get the thing off the ground in the direction in which I think you, Sir, and I certainly want it to head.

395 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

Is it a fact that the Minister is currently negotiating with a private developer for the construction of a recreation centre at Marrara?

ANSWER

We are investigating a proposal by a private developer to build a sporting complex at Marrara. It is the subject of papers which are being prepared for a cabinet submission.

396 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is the Northern Territory government participating in the Australia-wide farm link in March and, if so, in what way? Does he know of any rural groups who are participating?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government has agreed to participate in Operation Farm Link and will assist in the distribution of 4,000 copies of the magazine which will arrive very soon. Information on the $5,000 national essay competition for school children is currently being distributed to Northern Territory schools. I am advised that the Northern Farmers Association has also offered support and is considering a number of activities for later in the year after the wet season concludes. Operation Farm Link has been of interest to me personally as a vehicle for the distribution of information between city and country dwellers. I think it is a very admirable effort on the part of the editor and the management of that particular newspaper.

397 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Why and to what extent does the Office of Information have access to confidential cabinet papers?

ANSWER

I would have thought that it would have been obvious to the Leader of the Opposition why the Office of Information would have access to cabinet papers. Cabinet submissions are prepared by all departments and statutory authorities to obtain policy and logistical approval for the actions of various departments. The arm of the Northern Territory government which has the duty to endeavour to explain to the people of the Northern Territory what the government is doing is the Office of Information in the Chief Minister's Department. If the Office of Information is unable to have access to cabinet documents and submissions, obviously it would be

unable to assess the material on which cabinet decisions have been made and thus explain the rationale behind initiatives to the people of the Northern Territory. All public servants are under a duty of confidentiality in respect of most of the material that comes before them and this also applies to officers of the Office of Information. There seems to be nothing extraordinary at all in the concept of trusting these officers with such sensitive papers. Indeed, it was the degree of possible breach of that trust that surprised me in the recent incident.

398 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER

I ask this question on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey and myself. What is the intention of the government for the use of the special purpose lease occupied by William Angliss at the 10-mile?

ANSWER

I ask that the question be placed on notice. I do not have the specific information on the matter at the moment but I will certainly obtain it.

399 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

My question concerns a matter that is of vital concern to my electorate. What can the minister tell the House about the situation surrounding the statement made by Mr Eddie Connellan in yesterday's press about the future operations of Connair?

ANSWER

No one was more surprised than I was at the content of that particular article. I understand that no approaches have been made to either the federal government or the Northern Territory government on the proposal contained in the article and we have sent a telegram to Mr Connellan asking him for further information. Of course, we cannot substantiate what was said in that article but I think it would be a form of criticism to act in that manner without discussions with the government. There was also a criticism of the government in that article for its inability to provide facilities at Ayers Rock. The picture there is largely known to members of the Assembly. The airstrip at Ayers Rock itself is unlikely to be upgraded; it is unlikely to receive the approval of the federal or the Northern Territory authorities because we are constructing another airstrip which is likely to come up for tender in 1979-80. I think the whole thing could be a bit of a smokescreen.

The other aspect I would like to draw to your attention, Sir, is that the article refers to the use of the Fokker F27 being deferred for a time. We understand from Department of Transport officers that the Fokker, although suitable for use on bush strips or earth strips, has the capability of ruining those strips inside a couple of landings and our information is that it would probably be unsuitable anyway.

400 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it true that there might be a delay in the commencement of the rehabilitation pilot study at Darwin Hospital because of a shortage in the Northern Territory of occupational therapists and physiotherapists? Is the shortage partly due to the fact that Northern Territory Public Service rates of pay for occupational therapists and physiotherapists are substantially below equivalent rates in other states and, if so, what action is being planned to overcome this problem?

ANSWER

I am not quite sure whether the honourable member is asking a question and making a statement of fact. I think we have discussed many times in the House the problem in recruiting specialists and I am sure occupational therapists and physiotherapists fit into that particular category. I think it is unacceptable, if it is the case, that we go without these people because our salary rates are not comparable with the rates paid elsewhere in Australia. I will look into that matter myself and report back to the House at the next opportunity.

401 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT and WORKS

I ask this question also on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. It relates to the previous question I asked of the honourable Minister for Lands and Housing.

If William Angliss relinquished the use of the special purpose lease at the 1-mile as an export abattoirs, would they lose the export quota? I understand they have not earned since 1973.

ANSWER

The allocation of quotas, as I think you are aware, Mr Speaker, is the responsibility of the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation. That makes the question slightly hypothetical. However, the information I do have may be of some interest. In 1978 special quotas for northern meatworks totalled around 13,000 tonnes and I am advised that the 1979 special quotas have not yet been allocated by the AMLC. In any case the AMLC has foreshadowed the end of special quotas following the upgrading of Wyndham port and the AMLC considers that, once northern meatworks have had an adequate opportunity to service other markets, there will be no reason to continue those special quotas. They say that Northern Exporters will be eligible to earn normal quotas in the same way as other exporters. However, it makes really no difference where an abattoir is because my understanding is that quotas are allocated to exporters and not to meatworks.

402 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it his intention to establish a city morgue or will postmortems continue to be carried out by pathologists attached to the Department of Health?

ANSWER

My understanding is that the establishment of a city morgue would be in the jurisdiction of the Attorney-General. I ask that the question be redirected to him.

403 Mr OLIVER to CHIEF MINISTER

Would the Chief Minister tell me what is the government's intention in providing an aerodrome at the Yulara Village site?

ANSWER

This matter seems to be rather topical because the Minister for Industrial Development touched on it in his answer to an earlier question. Some weeks ago, when I was in Alice Springs, with the authority of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission which is responsible for the Yulara Tourist

Village Report, I indicated that tenders would probably be called in July-August of this year for the construction of a new airstrip at the Yulara Tourist Village which will be capable of accommodating Fokker Friendship aircraft. I might mention that notice of this was conveyed to Connair some weeks ago and indeed a public announcement was made on the radio in Alice Springs.

402 Mrs LAWRIE to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

I redirect my question concerning the city morgue.

ANSWER

I do not know what the intentions are in respect of the establishment of a city morgue. I would have to ask that that question be placed on notice. I really do not think the Department of Law would be attempting to expand its activities into this area. We notice that departments do attempt to expand their areas of activity but I feel sure the Solicitor-General and myself would not be anxious to go into the cadaver business. If we can, we will pass the responsibility back to the Department of Health. However, I know the question is a serious one and I will have it investigated seriously. I will attempt to provide the honourable member for Nightcliff with a written response in the course of the next few weeks.

404 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I refer to the recent problems relating to lack of and late arrival of furnishings and library materials for newly built schools in the Territory. Has the matter been drawn to the attention of the minister? If so, will the minister take steps to ensure that, in future, these very essential goods are ordered and delivered to new schools before occupation by students and staff?

ANSWER

I am unaware of any delay in the delivery of library books to new schools. There is a reduced allocation to library services in schools this financial year but new schools are certainly not affected by this reduction. The honourable member is probably aware of the difficulty apparently experienced in Alice Springs by the new high school at Sadadeen. The modus operandi of the new system will be different to what the old system was. The old system was subject to random and arbitrary variations of the amount of money available for fixtures and fittings. The Sadadeen saga was a very sad one indeed. The amount of money requested by the department as being appropriate for fixtures and fittings was varied about 3 times. A separate department was involved in the delivery of those goods and that is Sydney-based - the Department of Administrative Services. Given the communication system with the south, it is quite obvious that we must have extensive and frustrating delays. Under a system of Northern Territory government administration, where the whole of the administration is in the same locality, I cannot see such problems arising in the future at all.

405 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware that, because of the shortage of pathologists at Darwin Hospital, unreasonable delays sometimes occur in the conducting of post mortems aand this delays funerals? If he is aware of this, will he undertake to recruit sufficient pathologists to enable the post mortems to be done reasonably quickly and would he undertake, as Minister for Health when he assumes that responsibility, to accord the conducting of such post mortems the highest priority?

ANSWER

It becomes clear why the honourable member was pursuing the issue of a city morgue. I was not being facetious when I redirected the question because the function of a city morgue is normally a prerogative of the police department. It has become difficult to get post mortems done in the Darwin Hospital and this could be holding up funerals. I am not aware of any situation where this has happened in Darwin but I would welcome advice at any time if anyone is being disadvantaged by such a situation. I have been aware of this situation arising in Alice Springs in the past. When I raised it with the people responsible, the situation was remedied quickly. I do not think the department or the coroner's court has ever had the intention of putting people at a disadvantage by holding up post mortems. Often, the necessity for post mortems seems to come in ebbs and tides. There seems to be a crisis for a time and then there is a quiet period. In one centre, we had to hire miscellaneous cold room space until the doctor could get through the backlog of post mortems. I am quite happy to take the matter up with the department and will let the honourable member know what progress has been made.

405 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he confirm that the recently completed environment, planning and coastal management study recommended that the design for the ramp built near the Water Ski Club at Vesteys Beach should allow for the passage of sand through the structure by incorporating large concrete culverts in the ramp? Will the minister explain why the ramp was built before the study was completed with the result that such a passage of sand has not been provided for and there is now a large build up of sand on the southern side and a consequent erosion of sand on the northern side of that ramp? What action will be taken to overcome this problem?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

407 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has consideration been given by the Northern Territory government to introducing a limited bus service for old-age pensioners in the Darwin area?

ANSWER

Consideration has not been given to providing that sort of service. Our main consideration with the bus service is to keep the operating deficit at a certain level. I think the deficit this year will be $1.25m and that is fairly alarming. However, if a need is expressed and there are facts to support it, we will keep looking at what extension of the bus service will have to be made.

408 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

How many staff are attached to the Office of Information, and are these staff subjected to any special security procedures?

ANSWER

I do not know exactly how many staff are attached to the Office of Information. I think it is in the order of half a dozen but it might be as many as 8 people. I am not really aware of what security procedures

are taken in the public service to vet people. My only knowledge of public service procedures is that, shortly after I left school, I joined the public service for a short time and I had to swear an oath that I would be loyal to our Sovereign Lady the Queen and keep everything I saw fairly hush hush. I imagine that situation still prevails.

409 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I have heard there are plans to build a primary school at Humpty Doo. In view of this has consideration been given to make the Howard Springs School an area school?

ANSWER

There is proposed to be a new area school at Humpty Doo. It is my understanding that the school proposal is now on the preliminary design list for 1979-80. The school will initially cater for pre-school, primary and junior secondary and, hopefully, by about 1985 it should be able to provide the normal extension of high school services. I would imagine that would mean that the Howard Springs School would become a single school in its own right but I am not sure whether it would be a primary or high school. I will provide further information to the honourable member later.

410 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he assure the House that no member of his personal staff interfered with the envelope containing Mr Vine's article?

ANSWER

I am unaware of the identity of the person who opened the envelope. I am therefore not in a position to give any such assurance to the House. Even if I was aware of the identity of the person, I would certainly not disclose his identity publicly or to honourable members opposite as I believe that person would then become the subject of victimisation and discrimination.

411 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

From what areas does the topsoil for Housing Commission homes in the urban area come? In keeping with the Northern Territory government's environmental protection policy, is topsoil from further out in the rural areas carted to fill in holes from which the first lot has been removed and, if so, at what distance from Darwin will these holes not be filled in, and when will the practice cease?

ANSWER

There are locations in what we know as the 32-square-mile area from which both government and industry extract topsoil to bring into the city proper. I think it is fair comment to say that by carting topsoil from the 32-square-mile area to use as fill in places such as Anula and Wulagi, we are doing exactly what the honourable member said. We are filling up areas that were excavated some 10 to 15 years ago by people living in the Darwin city area. The answer to the problem is for us to identify areas for the removal of topsoil and sand that are not likely to be used for future town development or cause any future embarrassment to planners or future residents.

412 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it his intention - and if so, when - to introduce legislation to control the use of antibiotics in stockfeeds?

ANSWER

The matter the honourable member refers to is on a list of proposed legislation but whether it will come up between now and 1989, I could not offer her any assurance at all.

413 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

When does he anticipate that it will be his turn to take over ministerial responsibilities for the Electricity Commission, in view of the fact that the commission has already had 3 other ministers in the last 12 months?

ANSWER

I would be unable to answer that question.

414 Mr ROBERTSON: Mr Speaker, by your leave, I think I may have misled the honourable member for Tiwi in my answer to her question in relation to the Humpty Doo School. I think I said the school would become a high school. What it will do, in effect, is split into two; in 1985 it will become a separate primary school and a separate high school. The proposed location of the school - the other part of the question which I think I missed - is on the Arnhem Highway, about 3 miles from its junction with the Stuart Highway. That is the position: initially, it will be an area school through to junior secondary and by about 1985, it is hoped to have both a high school and a primary school functioning on the same location with perhaps some shared facilities.

415 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it true that the Executive Council approved regulations yesterday for the declaration of Sir Edward Pellew group of islands as a town area?

ANSWER

The proceedings of the Executive Council are of a secret nature. One is required to swear an oath when one is sworn in as an executive councillor. The honourable member for Arnhem would be aware of the provisions of that oath because it is contained in a schedule to the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act. I cannot remember the exact terms of the oath offhand but I am pretty sure that it precludes me from saying directly what took place at the Executive Council yesterday, certainly not without the leave of the Administrator. All I can say is that one should look in the Northern Territory Government Gazette for something of that nature. I would doubt that anything would be in the Gazette relating to yesterday's meeting.

416 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What regard will be paid by the Northern Territory government after 1 July 1979 to the encouragement of the full development of gifted children within our Northern Territory school system and also with regard to the necessity perhaps of their having to receive schooling down south?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government is concerned to provide the best education it possibly can across the whole spectrum of children and I do not think we should be particularly singling out gifted children at the expense of any others. However, the Northern Territory division of the Department of Education has been one of the leaders in Australia in the field of making adequate provision for gifted children. I believe there are only gifted children's programs in Queensland and South Australia to date; The Queensland program has only just started and the South Australian program started in 1977.

At the beginning of the school year in 1977, the Northern Territory division of the department commenced a program of providing special advisers for gifted children throughout the Northern Territory. This program now operates in respect of 13 primary and high schools in the Northern Territory and serves 200 identified gifted children. This is done by way of special advisers being made available to the school in such a manner as to prevent interference in the normal school activities. The Northern Territory government will continue the current program of special tuitional guidance to gifted children in the Northern Territory. It would not be our intention, nor would we consider it desirable, to export our better children. For that reason the current programs, which are the most modern in Australia, will be developed. We would not be looking to subsidising the export of our talent.

417 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

I ask this question on the supposition that the Chief Minister can use his discretion to disclose proceedings of cabinet meetings if he wishes to do so. When did the Cabinet make its decision that the Sir Edward Pellew group of islands would be declared a town area?

ANSWER

Again I am bound by the secrecy provisions that traditionally attach to Cabinet. I do not think there is anything in law that says I may not say what goes on in Cabinet but I have received lectures this week from the honourable Leader of the Opposition and many of the pedagogues who inhabit the nether regions with him. The position is constitutionally quite clearly established that I am not in a position to tell this House, or anyone outside my cabinet colleagues, what went on in Cabinet other than such decisions as Cabinet chooses to release. I am quite sure that if Cabinet had made such a decision as the honourable member for Arnhem refers to, it would have been snapped up in the press.

418 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Will he assure the orderlies in the Alice Springs Hospital that they will not be disadvantaged, in a financial sense, by their transfer over to St John Ambulance?

ANSWER

The honourable member raises a point that I am not quite sure is, in fact, a reality. The honourable member in his question assumes that the orderlies at the Alice Springs Hospital will transfer automatically to the St John Ambulance Brigade in Alice Springs which is currently recruiting staff for the commencement of its operations later this year. My understanding of the situation is that St John Ambulance will be recruiting qualified people to undertake the duties that the ambulance brigade requires from time to time and that, if opportunities are there for orderlies to transfer, then they would probably be most acceptable. But in the event of the orderlies not being able to be transferred, as I understand it, they would just continue their normal orderly duties.

I might make the point that I think that in most of our hospitals we have had a situation where orderlies and other people in the hospitals have been carrying out ambulance driving duties over many years for the benefit of the community and the hospital. On many occasions these people have not been as qualified as they themselves would have wished. I think it should be noted that all of us in the community owe these orderlies a great deal of thanks for what they have done. But I do not think that implies that the orderlies will automatically transfer to the St John Ambulance Brigade at either a higher or lower level. In fact, there is no guarantee that they will transfer at all. They may possibly continue normal orderly duties in the hospital.

419 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of the answer given to a previous question I asked relating to the Darwin Hospital, it is obvious there will be many buildings unoccupied after Casuarina Hospital opens. My question is, could the minister inform me what will happen to these excess buildings when the Casuarina Hospital does, in fact, open?

ANSWER

I would like to make the point that this question relates in part to questions that have been asked in the House earlier about the future of the hospital and what functions the hospital will serve in the future. The short answer is that the department is preparing a cabinet submission for consideration concerning the complete future requirements and needs of the Darwin Hospital and I would imagine the future of the buildings.

420 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER

Could he use his good efforts to ensure that before the Place Names Committee names roads in the rural area, it publicises its intentions and invites comment from the people who live in the area?

ANSWER

The naming of roads and streets in all areas of the Northern Territory is the responsibility of the Administrator acting with the advice of his council. What is put before the Administrator is the advice of a group called the Place Names Committee. This group should have representatives from various areas in the Territory. At present, there are a few vacancies on the committee and advertisements are in the press seeking nominations to fill those vacancies. It is not really practical to have suggestions by the Place Names Committee advertised before they go to the Administrator because it would create a somewhat unnecessary delay. However, if the honourable member for Tiwi or any of her constituents wishes to put forward a series of suggestions or perhaps even a principle on which the streets in her area should be named, I would certainly be glad to receive such representations and pass them on the Place Names Committee for its consideration.

421 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is it a fact that 6 employees at Mount Wells battery have received letters advising them that they must relinquish prospecting leases which they presently hold in the area or lose their jobs at Mount Wells? If this is a fact, is it intended that similar action will be taken with regard to other public servants who hold prospecting leases?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

422 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The minister will be aware that about half a dozen applications were received following the advertising by his department on 22 November last year of an A9 position based in Tennant Creek. Will he inform the Assembly why he intervened to reject all the applicants and have the position re-advertised on 22 February this year? Can he also inform the Assembly whether he took this action after discussing the position with the Minister for Mines and Energy?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, you will probably ask me to withdraw this but that is a blatant lie. I withdraw it, but there is no other way that I can put it forcefully enough. That is the most mischievous piece of falsehood I have ever heard in my life. I categorically deny that I interfered in any public service position whatsoever. It can be confirmed with the permanent head of my department that I am so concerned to keep out of matters of the public service, particularly appointments, that I have constantly refused to even meet applicants even when invited to do so by senior officers. I am cautious and religious about avoiding any inference of contact with the public service whatsoever in terms of employment. I totally reject the allegation.

423 Mr OLIVER to TREASURER

When will 2 shopping sites in Alice Springs, one on Head Street and one on the east side, be put on the market?

ANSWER

The commercial centre site on Head Street, Alice Springs, was put to auction formally before self-government. A reserve price of $80,000 was set. This was a seemingly ridiculous thing to do because the value of the land was about $30,000. Obviously, it did not attract any bids. After self-government, I directed that the department reset the reserve price on the block and reissue it on offer to the public at market valuation or perhaps a small percentage below market valuation. I am informed that the block will be put up at the next land auction in Alice Springs which is set for mid-April.

On the east side, the shopping centre lots which are currently marked on the plan as lots 4625 and 4626 have now been proposed as residential land and other land put forward as being more suitable for a commercial centre in that subdivision. These are lots 4631 and 4632. As this action involves a change to the Alice Springs Town Plan, it is not proposed to put these lots up for sale at that auction in April.

424 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

In consideration of the fact that representatives of the Northern Territory government told the Aboriginal people at Borroloola on Monday of this week of the Cabinet's decision, will the Chief Minister advise me if the government had any discussions with the Aboriginal people at Borroloola prior to this week to advise them that the government was considering such an action?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government is certainly considering the proclamation of a town area to enable a port facility to be established in the islands to the north of Borroloola in the Gulf of Carpentaria, called the Sir Edward Pellew group. As a matter of fact, 2 weeks ago I think officers of the Department of Law and the Aboriginal liaison unit informed the solicitors for the Northern Land Council and the Borroloola community of this fact. Cabinet has not considered the question as yet and the matter is one that will probably be considered in the near future.

The whole position at McArthur River is one that is being negotiated over quite a long time. There is the matter of the corridor across the town common. There is a request by the Aboriginal people that Mount Isa Mines sell Bing Bong Station to them and certainly, Mr Speaker, we have indicated to the Aboriginal community at Borroloola that if Mount Isa Mines is willing to sell Bing Bong Station or indeed any of the stations down there for the purposes of a station to the Aboriginal people in the area, then we have absolutely no objection. The whole thing, of course, is tied up with the development of the large mining project at McArthur River which is a silver-lead-zinc deposit, I understand, and a great deal more money has now to be spent. I think $18m or $24m have been spent so far in proving the ore bodies and doing trial processes to see how the ore can be recovered and Mount Isa Mines is now at a crossroads position. It really needs to expend a great deal more money and perhaps bring a part of the field into production, a part where there is an ore body that is apparently richer than the larger part of it. Mount Isa Mines is obviously looking for some security of tenure and some assurance that it will be able to transport the ore from the area of the mine to a port in the Sir Edward Pellew group of islands and these negotiations have all been to that end.

Mr Speaker, you and other honourable members of this House would appreciate that a mine which would be the genesis of a port in that area would be a great asset for the Northern Territory because it would mean that our fishing industry in the Gulf would be able to compete on a much better footing with Queensland which has a land-based port facility at Karumba on the Norman River to which many prawning vessels resort and at which there are a number of fish and prawn processing facilities. The establishment of a port in the McArthur River region with access by road to the eastern states and South Australia would, I believe, be a great boost to the fishing industry and would also give incentive to the pastoral industry in the area which at the present time, I understand, has no easy access for transshipment of live cattle to anywhere outside the area other than by trucking them to the railhead at either Mount Isa or Alice Springs. So, Mr Speaker, you and I think all honourable members can see that the provision of a port in that region of the Northern Territory is a most desirable objective and one that the Northern Territory government will pursue.

425 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

When will a decision be made on the submission from Nabalco Oval Management Committee requesting financial assistance to complete the newly-formed sports oval project?

ANSWER

I believe the application will be finalised shortly.

426 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

At present, certain drugs may be purchased over the counter for animal use only. Will legislation be introduced to make it necessary for prescriptions to be issued for antibiotics, steroids and similar drugs?

ANSWER

I assume he is referring to drugs that are prescribed or required by veterinary scientists in the normal course of their profession. My understanding is that the Australian states and the Northern Territory do have an agreement on the method of prescription of drugs for animals. I am not aware of the actual process in the Northern Territory but I will endeavour to find out and advise the House at a later time.

427 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to the meeting that the honourable Chief Minister just referred to. Is he aware that the senior government officer present at that meeting requested the people there not to advise the Aboriginal people at Borroloola of the government's decision until the NT government officers themselves advised the people of that decision on Monday and that the reply he received was that the NLC could not agree to such a request?

AMSWER

I am sure all honourable members have found the honourable member for Arnhem's statement interesting. It was a statement not a question.

428 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

I understand that the Mexican government has invited nations participating in the celebration of the International Year of the Child to send a delegation of children to Acapulco in April for an international sand

modelling contest. Will Northern Territory children be given the opportunity to participate.

ANSWER

I can confirm that an invitation has been made to children in Australia to participate. The Mexican government has invited 6 children from this country as their guests and the sand modelling contest will be a feature of that visit. Children from 5 Australian states and the Northern Territory have the opportunity to represent Australia. Officers of my department are negotiating with representatives of the 2 commercial organisations, TAA and Coca Cola Ltd, who are sponsoring the local competitions concerning arrangements for the Territory contest which will be held in Darwin towards the end of this month. The Australia deputation will go to Acapulco to compete late in April of this year. As the position for the Territory representative was only finalised 48 hours ago, further details of the competition will be announced through the media.

429 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware of a report circulating in his department on beach front usage in Darwin? It was completed, I understand, around July last year. Is it true that the report recommends against any development on Mindil Beach?

ANSWER

The only report that I know of that could be circulating in the department is the foreshore management study for which my colleague, the Minister for Lands, has the administration. I am not sure if that recommendation is contained in it or not.

430 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Does the government have any plans to build a public swimming pool in the rural area?

ANSWER

There are certainly no such plans. It is normal, of course, for the government to assist in the construction of swimming pools in any area. This is usally done in conjunction with local government which, of course, means rates and that means loan rates. If the honourable member is proposing the establishment of local government for her area so that we may subsidise a $700,000 swimming pool, dollar for dollar, I would like to hear from her.

431 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Again, can he advise the House if any decision has been made on the future use of Carpentaria College?

ANSWER

This long saga is coming near to an end, fortunately. It has taken us a long time to negotiate this with the Commonwealth - not so much to vest the land of Carpentaria College, as that was done with self-government, but vest the debts and transfer the mortgage across to the Northern Territory. This has only recently been done, a matter of weeks ago. At the moment the government is considering various options as to what future use Carpentaria College should be put to and I would hope that a decision can be made within a couple of weeks.

432 Mrs O'NEIL to TREASURER

This question also relates to another long saga. Can he tell us what progress has been made towards the transfer of certain Australian National Railways properties to the Northern Territory government? I refer, of course, particularly to the houses at Parap.

ANSWER

It is with some disappointment that I report to the House that at this stage we have not obtained from the Australian National Railways a transfer of the ownership of the properties in Parap which are causing the government some concern. I have asked the Housing Commission to approach the Australian National Railways immediately at least to get permission to clean up the area and bulldoze the sets of floorboards that are standing at the present time and are quite an eyesore, being on the Stuart Highway. I have also given policy directions on a new line for negotiations for the actual sale of the assets to the Northern Territory. I hope, in the not too distant future, to be able to announce that arrangements have been made with ANR for us to take over the assets on the land, because the land itself already belongs to the Northern Territory, and also provide details of proposals for redevelopment of this area.

433 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware that people in the rural areas of Darwin have no security of water supply and when the water for a variety of reasons ceases to flow and they ring the office, they are advised that no guarantee can be given of their water supply continuing? If he is aware of this, can he advise if his department has taken any action?

ANSWER

I was not aware of the exact nature of the problem as the honourable member for Nightcliff has described it. Certainly, it probably leads back to her problem with the answering service. This is a problem which needs further examination. I am not so sure that what we are doing is exactly the best thing but we are looking at it at present.

434 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What is being done to control the cassia-type week which is growing in high hedges on either side of the Arnhem Highway just west of the South Alligator River?

ANSWER

Not too many people appreciate just how serious the weed problem is in the Northern Territory, particularly in the Top End. In recent months, we have reclassified many of the weeds and we propose to improve the legislation as soon as we are able. The department is currently working on a report to me as to the best way to go about this. Members may have already read the feral animals report which states that the weeds section of the primary industry division needs livening up. I will be able to reply to the honourable member more adequately when we have examined these problems.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

435 Mr TUXWORTH: Yesterday, the honourable member for Fannie Bay asked a question concerning the shortage of physiotherapists and occupational therapists in Darwin. She asked whether the delay in appointing people was because the rates of pay being offered are substantially less than

those in other places in Australia. After intensive negotiations between the various Commonwealth and Northern Territory organisations involved, a pilot project has been decided on for ward 2 of the Darwin Hospital, equipment has been ordered for which delivery is now taking place and staff sought. There has been a particularly good response to the advertisements for occupational therapists and physiotherapists and it is hoped appointments will be made very soon. In general terms, the rates of pay compare satisfactorily with most of the states although not with Western Australia and the Department of Repatriation.

436 Mr TUXWORTH: The honourable member for Nightcliff asked whether funerals were being delayed by the conducting of postmortems at the Darwin Hospital. The department is aware that postmortem requirements have caused unavoidable delays to funeral arrangements from time to time. As the member for Nightcliff rightly implied, Darwin Hospital has been experiencing difficulties in recruiting pathologists. I would like to assure the honourable member that the matter is being taken very seriously and that recruitment to the vacant position is now in an advanced stage. As soon as I have confirmation of an appointment, I will advise the honourable member myself.

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PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

Questions are printed in numerical order
An index to questions appears at the end of Part II

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 29 MAY 1979

FROM 28 NOVEMBER 1978

201 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is causing the delay in the signing of the lease agreement between V.B. Perkins & Company and the Northern Territory Port Authority, a matter which has now been in dispute for exactly 6 years?

FROM 27 FEBRUARY 1979

268 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Did the Prime Minister write to the Chief Minister during 1978 concerning the proposal by the Heritage Commission to proclaim the Alligator Rivers region as part of the National Heritage?

2. If so, on what dates?

3. Did the Chief Minister respond?

4. If so, on what dates?

5. Did the Chief Minister object to the proposal?

6. If so, on what terms?

FROM 6 MARCH 1979

312 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has a decision been taken on the type of vehicle which will replace the present Holden pursuit vehicles of the Traffic Branch?

2. Will these vehicles be air-conditioned?

3. Has consideration been given by the department to supplying its officers with personal sidearms instead of the current practice of officers purchasing their own sidearms?

343 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can the minister advise the current position of the $150,000 advanced by the NT government to V.B. Quinton?

FROM 15 MAY 1979

391 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to the NT Places Names Committee and ask the following:

1. What is the current membership of this committee?

2. How many members of this committee were actually born in the Territory?

3. How many members of this committee are of Aboriginal descent.

4. Have persons of Aboriginal descent ever been appointed to this committee?

5. How many members of this committee reside in Darwin?

6. How many members of this committee reside in Alice Springs?

7. How many members of this committee reside in other Territory centres?

8. What is the normal term of appointment to the committee?

9. What are the duties and responsibilities of the committee?

438 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Is he aware that some farmers in the Alice Springs area have received very little or no incentives from government to expand local production of fresh fruit and vegetables?

2. If so, what action will be taken by the NT government to provide incentives for those farmers in need?

3. What action can be taken by the NT government to provide adequate marketing facilities in Alice Springs for local farm produce?

441 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

How many new positions have been created in the NT Public Service since self-government, excluding compulsory transferees?

443 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What is the length of the existing pipeline from the sewerage treatment plant at Ludmilla to the Darwin Harbour?

2. Is it intended to extend the pipeline to 800 metres as was originally specified?

3. Is there any money, allocated for this project, remaining?

4. Are tests carried out of the Ludmilla Creek and Darwin Harbour waters and, if so, how often, to measure the effect of the operation of the treatment plant?

5. What are the results of these tests?

445 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Is he aware that a market exists in Japan for chillies?

2. Will he make inquiries and obtain particulars and seeds of the desired variety and propagate the plants to enable trial crops to be planted in 1979-80?

449 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

What assistance can the NT government give the appropriate authorities to hasten the upgrading of radio, telephone and television services for all Territorians?

450 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that approximately 30,000 Territorians are deprived of local news, weather forecasts and special programs designed for outback Territorians because the ABC and Telecom have fallen down on their jobs of providing these services?

451 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that adequate radio reception could be afforded to the whole of the Territory by the provision of approximately $700,000 to supply and upgrade transmitters?

455 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

What is being done to help make Aboriginal communities such as Roper River self-sufficient in -

(a) beef;

(b) fresh vegetables and fruit, such as pawpaw, banana, etc; and

(c) fish?

456 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Realising that bread was baked in most communities in the past, could this and other similar ventures be revived to help make Aboriginal communities self-sufficient and provide employment?

457 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the present police station to be shifted from Roper Bar to the Roper River Aboriginal community?

If so, is this with the approval of the Aboriginals?

Is this with the approval of the general community, who view the present position as strategic in that it controls the crossing of the Roper River?

Is there justification for this move when there are so many singleman stations needing reinforcement - such as Mataranka?

Will the Police Department consider using an auxiliary force of Aboriginals chosen by their communities to preserve law and order?

458 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

When will Aboriginals use the motel they purchased in Katherine as a hostel instead of using hospital beds for overnight accommodation when requiring X-rays, etc?

459 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Are pension and other cheques collected by Aboriginal Associations instead of personally by the recipients?

Will indentification be provided to enable Aboriginals to be indentified when collecting their mail?

461 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it envisaged that the Donkey Camp will satisfy Katherine's requirements for soft water for all time, or is this proposal part of an undisclosed plan by the Northern Territory government to provide water for irrigation, hydro-electric power and drinking?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 29 MAY 1979

463 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

When does the contract of the Public Service Commissioner expire?

465 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of the problems being caused in Katherine and other centres by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs policy of regulating the use of social service cheques to promote separate sales outlets for the purchase of supplies by Aborigines and, if so, will he ask the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to allow Aborigines to choose where they spend their money?

466 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he ascertain from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs who authorised the Yulnyu Association to collect social security cheques from Aboriginals at Djembere (Duck Creek), the deduction of amounts necessary to pay for goods purchased on their behalf by the Baruwei Association and the payment of the balance to the Aboriginals concerned?

467 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Does the travelling allowance of $22.50 per day paid to employees under NT Public Service Bylaw 37(3) represent the amount they are expected to pay for other than motel or hotel accommodation and, if so, are employees instructed to offer this amount to their hosts at stations, Aboriginal communities or "flying camps"?

468 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is the proposal to take water from the Donkey Camp at Katherine designed only to overcome the problem of mineralised water or is it part of a larger scheme to provide water for irrigation and hydro-electric power?

469 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to the hundred or so caravans parked during the wet season at Katherine in schools grounds, at the Health Department, around shops and on industrial blocks and ask: is it the government's intention to allow this practice to continue or will the government force the owners of the vans to use the licensed caravan parks in the town?

471 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Does the NT government recognise the inadequacy of the sitting fee of $10 per hour for members of the Town Planning Board when the board travels to towns such as Katherine where it may only sit for one hour during a round trip that may take 12 hours?

2. Does it also recognise that the case is exacerbated when the board goes on to Tennant Creek from Katherine thereby entailing a further lengthy travelling period?

3. Does the Minister expect to retain competent members with the requisite abilities to complete their tasks on this level of remuneration?

4. Is it the intention of the Minister to have the meal allowance of $2.50 increased now that steak costs $7.00 per kilogram?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 29 MAY 1979

474 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is it a fact that shortage of serviced land in Katherine is preventing the provision of sufficient housing for the 20-odd people on the Housing Commission list?

2. Does the NT government have plans for providing Katherine with a satellite development area as it has for Darwin?

3. Will 5 and 10 acre blocks be available in the Katherine area in 1979?

476 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

On what basis are Housing Commission dwellings in Nhulunbuy being allocated?

480 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What arrangements are being made to ensure that noise from the operation of the new government printery on the Stuart Highway at Parap will not disturb local residents?

2. What hours is it anticipated that the printery will operate?

3. Is a generator provided at the establishment and, if so, will it be operating full time or for emergencies only?

4. What arrangements have been made to ensure that the noise of the generator does not disturb local residents?

481 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What are the circumstances at Urapunga Station during Easter when an Aboriginal ceremony was interrupted by a tribesman innocently fishing from a dinghy fitted with an outboard motor?

2. In what manner did the Aborigines act towards the fisherman and in what way did they request the fisherman to depart?

3. Was damage caused to the boat and equipment and will prosecutions result?

4. Was the site of the fracas on a pastoral lease adjoining a river, or on a reserve?

483 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Will the Aboriginal community at Duck Creek (Djembore) be connected to the power supply from Mataranka power station?

2. If so, who will guarantee to pay Elecom the costs of line erection, maintenance and power used?

487 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will the decision to build all houses at ground level affect Katherine which is flood prone and cyclone free?

488 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many adults currently live on each of the Aboriginal settlements and missions in the Northern Territory?

2. How many adults are currently employed on each of the Aboriginal settlements and missions in the Northern Territory?

3. How many adults are currently in receipt of unemployment benefits on each of the Aboriginal settlements and missions in the Northern Territory?

4. How often are updated statistics collected on the above questions?

489 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that 14 meat exporters have requested information on service facilities to kill and process beef in the Northern Territory as stated by the Secretary of the Cattlemen's Union of Australia, Katherine Branch, at an industry meeting in Katherine on Saturday 28 April 1979?

490 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In view of the obvious requirement for processing facilities for beef owned by interests other than meatworks licensees, will he make funds available to enable interested parties to supply this requirement?

491 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the manager of Katherine meatworks indicated that his facilities would not be available for use as service works to kill and process cattle for outside interests?

492 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. How much has been spent by the NT government on the experimental cropping program in the Katherine and Daly River area?

2. What is the amount received by the NT government by way of sales of the crops?

3. Has an analysis been made of the cropping program?

4. If so, what are the results?

493 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What equipment has been installed in the Alice Springs abattoir to overcome noxious smells from the abattoir?

2. What is the capital cost and installation cost?

3. Does the equipment comply with Department of Health requirements?

4. Does the equipment comply with Department of Industrial Development requirements?

5. What is causing the smell emanating from the vicinity of the abattoirs?

6. What steps have been taken to date to eradicate the smell?

7. Why was the Alice Springs abattoir allowed to be built so close to residential land?

8. What would be the cost of re-siting the abattoirs?

FROM 22 MAY 1979

524 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the Brands Register has been awaiting publication for 3 years?

525 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Does freeze-dried beef come under special beef imports when sent to Japan, thus attracting no quota?

526 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is there need for service facilities for local consumption at licensed abattoirs, and service facilities for export at export meatworks?

527 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

(a) Will he investigate the complaint by Mr R.N. Thompson of lot 1198, Fuller Crescent, Katherine, that late reading of his watermeter put him into a higher category for excess water charges?

(b) Will he endeavour to ensure that all watermeters are read by 30 June each year?

528 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(a) Do local residents receive priority in the allocation of pensioner units?

(b) Do pensioners benefit from the same considerations (such as zone allowance) as public servants?

(c) How much has been allocated to the Old Pioneers Home at Katherine over the last 10 years?

529 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will he investigate why an officer of the Education Department who performed her duties for almost 4 years in the Katherine office was replaced by another applicant for the position?

530 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

What steps does the government take to pay its bill when unfortunate computer breakdowns or human errors cause embarrasssment to its creditors?

531 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Does the Department of Primary Industry have a program of field days and like functions to assist in disseminating knowledge to farms and pastoralists?

(b) If there is a program, can it be made public?

(c) What field days or encouragement groups are planned for small farmers with interests in pigs, goats, poultry, small farming machinery,

vegetable growing, flower production, fruit tree growing and horticultural pests?

(d) If there is no program of field days to assist primary producers, why not?

532 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Can he supply information regarding the Pioneer Cropping Scheme?

(b) What provisions have bee made to receive these crops?

(c) What policy or procedure has been provided to market, or assist in the marketing of these crops?

533 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he allocate funds for the provision of a domestic satellite to ensure outback Territorians get reasonable radio, telephone and television reception?

534 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will he investigate whether a dam above the thirteenth level at Katherine Gorge would enable more "flood prone" land to be used for industrial, commercial and residential purposes in Katherine?

566 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many (a) pistols, (b) high powered firearms are currently licensed in the Northern Territory?

2. How many firearms have been registered in each of the past 2 years?

3. How many firearms does the Registrar of Firearms estimate are currently owned in the Northern Territory?

4. How many deaths, violent or otherwise, have occurred involving fire arms in each of the past 2 years including the current year to date?

5. How many injuries involving firearms, violent or otherwise, have occurred in each of the past 2 years, including the current year to date?

586 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the Northern Territory Electricity Commission considered damming Katherine Gorge for hydro-electric purposes and, if so, what conclusions were reached?

2. What are the projected electricity requirements of the area which could be served with power from the gorge and for how long would a hydro-electric scheme be able to cater for those needs?

587 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) What measures are intended to control or eradicate noxious weeds such as parkinsonia, mimosa, salvinia, water hyacinth and many others in the Territory?

(b) Is it a fact that mimosa was virtually eradicated in the NT when the program was stopped?

(c) Is it a fact that the Department of Primary Industry has only one weeds agronomist who has 2, possibly 3, assistants?

588 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Does he accept the fact that it is a responsibility of his department to maintain information on Territory meat exports and, if so, is it not also the responsibility of his department to investigate allegations made by members of the Legislative Assembly about processors and exporters engaging in practices detrimental to Territory producers and to take steps to protect the interests of those producers?

589 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What efforts has he made to interest meat processors in training and employing local labour in all facets of meatworks operations?

590 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will he set up an authority to enable regular consultations between meat processors and producers to take place for the benefit of the Territory cattle industry as a whole?

591 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware of the concern of cattlemen that cattle weigh heavier and yield higher after arduous transport by road and rail to the eastern seaboard than they weigh at Katherine, and that the difference more than pays the higher freight costs and, if so, what does he propose to do about it?

592 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

(a) Is he aware of allegations that 100 caravans are being used outside caravan parks in Katherine?

(b) Does the Northern Territory government concede that with no serviced land available this practice is justified?

(c) Will the government concede that with flood mitigation action above the Katherine Gorge much land in and around Katherine now labelled "flood prone" could be utilised for residential and commercial use?

593 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Is he satisfied that the special export quota granted to William Angliss as operator of a North Australian export works has been used as intended by the Australian Meat Board?

(b) How did William Angliss use the special export quota of 2,000 tons during the closure of the company's Darwin works?

(c) Was this quota used for Vestey cattle going through other service meatworks?

594 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) What action is the government taking to protect beef producers against arbitrary trim for fat and bruising?

(b) What action is the government taking to ensure beef producers' interests are protected by the installation of electronic scales at all NT killing facilities?

595 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has the Northern Territory government investigated the desirability of trading beef with South-East Asian countries for petroleum, fertilizer and timber and, if so, with what result?

596 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Has his department investigated the use of tender stretch or similar tenderising processes or will the Darwin housewife have to rely on imported beef for tender beef?

2. Has any effort been made to ensure chefs, cooks and housewives are educated in choosing suitable beef for particular cooking processes?

597 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will the Northern Territory government issue an indicative price as a guide to producers desirous of getting top prices for their beef?

598 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) What is the AMIEU view on the proposition for 2 shifts to operate meatworks?

(b) Does he know if the processors believe that the provision of extra freezing and chilling space would be justified?

599 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

How can the wide price difference paid for cattle in South Australia and the Top End be justified when the end product is sold at the same price to the consumer on the US market?

600 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

(a) When will the road to Edith Falls be in suitable condition for use by conventional vehicles, including tourist coaches?

(b) Has he plans to seal this road?

601 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What assistance is the Northern Territory government providing to Mount Isa Mines to enable it to overcome its problem with the ore body at MacArthur River?

FROM 29 MAY 1979

602 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has a form recently been introduced at Darwin Hospital which requires a husband of a married woman seeking an abortion to sign a statement indicating his consent?

2. Was the form drafted by the Attorney-General's Department?

3. Is there any legal necessity for a husband's consent to be obtained before a married woman can obtain an abortion in the NT? If so, please provide details?

4. If the answer to 3. is yes, why has such consent in writing not been obtained previously?

5. If the answer to 3. is no, why is such consent now required?

6. Is the husband's consent required either by the hospital, or in law, or both, in the case of a married woman living separately from her husband?

692 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Could the Minister provide accurate figures on crop development programs at Katherine and Upper Adelaide River Experimental Farm?

2. Were they a success?

630 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

It was reported in the Adelaide "News" on Monday 30 April 1979, that a Mrs Kathy Strehlow "had been appointed a special adviser to the Northern Territory on Aboriginal land rights".

(a) Is this report true?

(b) If so, when was Mrs Strehlow appointed to the position of special adviser on Aboriginal land rights and for what period of time will the appointment be effective?

(c) What salary or fees will be provided for Mrs Strehlow during her appointment?

(d) What specific qualifications does Mrs Strehlow have to fulfil such a position?

(e) What will be her duties and responsibilities in this position?

(f) Given that competent advisers on Aboriginal land rights already exist locally in Aboriginal communities, organisations and in the Chief Minister's Department, why was Mrs Strehlow appointed?

631 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(a) Is he aware that a carton of canned beer costs $19.50 at Top Springs and a can retails at $1?

(b) As the freight per carton is 50¢ will he have, what appears to be a case of exorbitant charging, investigated by the Consumer Affairs Council?

632 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

(a) Is it a fact that apprentices joining NT government departments are denied accommodation subsidy?

(b) As full board at Katherine Hostel is $53 and a first year apprentice's pay is $80, leaving a youth only $27 to live on for seven days, will he take the matter up with the Public Service Commissioner to ensure

that outback apprentices are not discriminated against?

633 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(a) Is he aware that his government is threatening legal action against the Girl Guides Association of Katherine to recover $123 owing for water rates - water account No. 501.71?

(b) Does he intend to investigate the reason why such a fine self-help body is reluctant to pay this account?

634 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has the Valuer-General valued the house at lot 3540 Basedow Street, Fannie Bay, which was purchased by the Northern Territory government for the interim manager of the Territory Insurance Office?

2. If so, on what date was the valuation made?

659 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What improved market information will become available to Northern Territory cattle producers following the Bureau of Agricultural Economics report on beef price stabilization?

90 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why is the content of fluoride in the water at Katherine higher than that as recommended by the Department of Health?

ANSWER

The fluoride content of the Katherine water supply is in fact quite low and is normally of the order of 0.1 milligrams per litre (or parts per million). In such cases the Department of Health supports fluoridation of a water supply to raise the fluoride content to levels which have been proved to reduce very significantly the incidence of dental caries.

200 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Why have the Construction Safety Act and Regulations not yet been given a commencing date?

2. When is the Act likely to come into effect?

ANSWER

It has come to my attention that this question has been outstanding since 27 November 1978 and I apologise to the honourable Leader of the Opposition for this oversight. He will no doubt be aware the Construction Safety Act came into operation and the Construction Safety Regulations took effect on 29 December 1978.

228 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will he advise what is the policy of his government on the future development of Alice Springs Community College?

ANSWER

The Alice Springs Community College, as a corporate part of the Darwin Community College, will continue to provide a range of vocational and non-vocational courses for Central Australia.

Through its involvement in the newly constituted Training Resources Co-ordination Committee of the Further Education Council, the college will be able to participate in the provision of a range of post-school activities within the Alice Springs region.

The college is making submissions as to funding and administration. These submissions are under detailed examination at present by the government.

256 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will he advise what is the policy of the NT government on the future of Aboriginal residential colleges in the Territory?

Will Yirara Aboriginal College at Alice Springs be funded and supported as a residential college by the NT government when responsibility for Education is transferred in 1979?

If so, will Yirara College be funded adequately to continue its educational and residential program for young Aboriginal students?

ANSWER

1. The Northern Territory government intends to continue the present policy for Aboriginal residential colleges. The colleges will continue to provide courses and support for Aboriginal children who desire to attend senior high schools. These children will continue to complete a transition year at year seven. The colleges will also provide post-primary courses for students who attend small schools where there are no post-primary facilities.

2. It is the intention of the Northern Territory government to fund the colleges as they are currently being funded. As the honourable member may be aware, the 1979-80 budget will be the base line for funding education in the future.

3. The government will do all it can to ensure that adequate funds will be available for Yirara College.

260 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

As grave concern is felt that general practitioners in private practice in Katherine will not be able to compete with the Northern Territory Department of Health after 1 January 1979, will the Minister reassure private practitioners that they will be able to compete?

ANSWER

The concern felt by general practitioners in Katherine is not understood and I hasten to reassure the honourable member that I am not aware of anything in the changeover of the Health Department from Commonwealth to Northern Territory control which should cause any disquiet to general practitioners.

266 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can the Katherine district office of the Department of Social Security issue cheques in an emergency?

ANSWER

Matters relating to the internal functions of the Commonwealth Department of Social Security are not encompassed by my area of responsibility. However, it is in deference to my honourable colleague that I provide the following information.

At present the Katherine District Office of the Department of Social Security is not able to issue cheques in an emergency. If an eligible person is entitled to a payment and the situation warrants a counter cheque, this can be issued in Darwin on telephone advice, arriving in Katherine by the next mail.

It is hoped that by the end of the current financial year decentralisation plans presently in hand will make possible payment of counter cheques at the Katherine District Office of the Department of Social Security.

275 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What assistance or encouragement is being given to production of stock feed for horses, cattle, pigs and poultry in the Territory?

ANSWER

The government provides assistance and encouragement in the production and use of stock feed in the Northern Territory. The division of the Primary Industry monitors the industry structure and its operations including the feed components used, their origin and the amount of feed demanded for the different species of livestock. Regular checks and research on the nutritional value of stock feeds are carried out so that extension advice can be given on the most economic supplements, food stuffs and ration mixtures.

In addition, a development program to encourage the production of crops is being promoted by the government. One of the objectives of this program is to develop a cheaper and more regular local supply of crop and pasture products which are used for the manufacture of stock feeds.

278 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What is the establishment of -

   (a) the Animal Industry; and

   (b) the Agriculture,

   sections of the Primary Industry Division?

2. Where are the various officers stationed?

3. How many of these officers are involved on field work?

ANSWER

1. The Division of Primary Industry has the following establishment for its several branches:

Animal Production	86
Animal Health	79
Agriculture	42
Scientific Services	32
Administration	27

2. Employees are stationed at Darwin, Berrimah, Katherine, Elliott, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs, Coastal Plains Research Station, Upper Adelaide River Experiment Station, Douglas Daly Experiment Station, Kidman Springs, Brunette Downs, Timber Creek, Avon Downs and Anthonys Lagoon.

3. With the exception of the clerical/administrative staff and senior executives, all technical, professional and industrial staff are involved in field work at some time.

279 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What was the cost of operation during the past 5 years of each of the research stations and experiment farms in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The accounting system of the former Department of the Northern Territory did not provide for the positive identification of expenditure incurred in operating individual experiment farms/stations. I regret therefore

that I am unable to provide the information sought. However as the honourable member's question does highlight an inadequacy, my department is examining ways and means to introduce a system that will permit the maintenance of such records.

283 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that all the saltpans in the Northern Territory are on Aboriginal land?

ANSWER

This matter falls within the area of responsibility of my colleague, the Minister for Lands and Housing.

Mr Perron advises me that he assumes that the question refers to naturally occurring saltpans.

If so, the short answer is no.

He has also provided the following additional information -

1. The largest deposits of salt are to be found in an area of approximately 920 km^2 of vacant Crown Land located in Limmen Bight in the Gulf District. An official traditional Aboriginal land claim has been registered over the area.

2. A small number of saltpans are known to exist on pastoral leases throughout the Territory; the most extensively harvested pan, particularly earlier this century, being located on Manangoora Station which is also located in the Gulf District.

3. It should be noted, however, that the salt harvesting from this saltpan could not be regarded as an economically viable operation, and is in fact utilised as a supplementary income by the lessee.

288 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Have tests been carried out to measure the noise levels caused by traffic on Bagot Road?

2. If so, what are the results of those tests, and how do they compare with recognised standards for acceptable noise levels?

3. Have tests been carried out to measure the noise levels caused by aircraft in the Ludmilla area?

4. If so, what are the results of those tests, and how do they compare with recognised standards for acceptable noise levels?

ANSWER

The government has not conducted any testing to measure traffic noise levels along Bagot Road. It is considered, however, that these levels would be in the same range as those experienced in similar traffic situations elsewhere.

Levels of noise originating from aircraft operations are assessed by the Commonwealth Department of Transport who regularly publish their determinations, copies of which are available from the Airport Director, Darwin.

342 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that he has written to the Prime Minister requesting the transfer of the Aboriginal housing function to the NT government?

2. If this is the case, has the Prime Minister replied and what are the terms of his reply?

ANSWER

1. Yes, I have written to the Prime Minister about the further transfer of state-type functions from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to the Northern Territory government: housing is one such function.

2. Yes, the Prime Minister has replied. The Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments have agreed to set up a working party to examine the transfer of such function.

362 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

How much has been spent by the NT government on advertising promotion for the Government Insurance Office and the charges and benefits of the new compulsory third party scheme announced on Monday 5 February 1979?

ANSWER

An amount of $1,669.78 was expended on the printing of an explanatory brochure on the Government Insurance Office; in addition, $1,272.90 was spent on newspaper advertisements associated with the proposal.

363 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is he aware that some parents have expressed a need for suitable bus shelters to be established around Alice Springs for school children?

2. Has consideration been given by the Department of Education to the provision of suitable bus shelters?

3. Will bus shelters be provided for school children in the Alice Springs area?

ANSWER

1. The Northern Territory Division of the Department of Education advises that they have not received any requests for the provision of bus shelters for the school children in Alice Springs.

2. As a result of the answer to question 1., the answer is obviously "No".

3. Until such time as a need worthy of such a massive commitment of taxpayers' money can be justified, for a maximum of 10 minutes per day, the government will spend its educational resources in more appropriate ways.

364 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that the display of material that is racist in the Northern Territory does not constitute an unlawful act of racial discrimination within the terms of Racial Discrimination Act 1975?

2. Is it a fact that when Australia ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination it did not declare as offences punishable by law the dissemination of ideas of racial superiority or racial hatred?

3. What action, if any, will be taken by the NT government to encourage the Federal government to change the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 to enable firm action to be taken in respect of people who propagate racist views which are aimed at or have the result of dividing the community on racial or ethnic grounds in the NT?

4. Will the NT government legislate to deal with racism or racial discrimination specifically occurring with the NT?

ANSWER

Parts 1 and 2 - see Standing Orders Nos. 91 and 93.

Parts 3 and 4 - this government does not believe that further legislation on the subject of racial discrimination will in itself cure any problem. It is more properly a matter for better education and understanding by people. This government will actively encourage and promote such education and understanding. The matter is kept under constant consideration and while the government has no present proposals for legislation in this field, if legislative actions were considered necessary by the government, necessary proposals would be developed.

365 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is Mrs June Tapp of Killarney Station subsidised by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to advise Aboriginals on community works?

2. If so, when was Mrs Tapp appointed to this position and what is the amount of subsidy paid per annum?

3. What amount has she received since her employment to advise Aboriginals?

4. What are her duties and responsibilities in this position and to whom is she responsible?

5. Has she provided regular reports to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs on her work since she became subsidised?

6. Is the subsidy likely to continue indefinitely?

ANSWER

See Standing Order No. 91.

366 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Will the remainder of the road into Standley Chasm be sealed and bitumenized?

2. If so, when?

ANSWER

1. It is the intention of the government to seal all of the access road into Standley Chasm.

2. A preliminary design for the remaining section has been discussed with the Central Land Council. Until their consent to the location and clearances from Australian government and Northern Territory Environmental Authorities have been received, the project cannot be firmly committed to the Works Program.

367 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Have detailed studies been carried out on the suitability of the Todd River site north of the Old Telegraph Station as a recreational lake for Alice Springs?

2. If so, what are the results?

3. What advantages does this site have over other locations?

4. Have environmental impact studies been carried out on this site?

5. If so, what are the results?

6. What is the estimated cost of the recreational lake itself?

7. What other recreational facilities will be provided at the recreational lake?

8. What is the estimated cost of these facilities?

9. What specific employment opportunities can be provided with the establishment of a recreational lake?

ANSWER

1. Preliminary studies of the Todd River dam site were carried out in the 1960's. These included topographic surveys, geological and hydrological investigations and estimates of possible siltation in the storage area. As these studies are not sufficient to establish the suitability of the site, further detailed investigations are being made now. These include more detailed hydrological and geological work, and studies of the catchment area and sediment transport characteristics of the river.

2. The present studies will need to be completed before results can be determined. Completion of a preliminary design, cost estimates and environmental studies will also be required before the final suitability can be evaluated. No decision has yet been made to go ahead with development at this site.

3. The advantages are that the site will provide a suitable body of water quite close to the town of Alice Springs, and it would complement the attractions of the adjacent Old Telegraph Station Reserve. The stored water would provide a reserve emergency supply for the town if the need ever arose. While Todd River would provide an acceptable area of water surface for recreational purposes, other possible sites are larger, but are at a considerable distance out of town.

4. Not as yet.

5. Not relevant.

6. No estimates will be available until investigations have advanced further.

7. Not yet decided. At the least there would be expected to be picnic facilities, toilets and a boat launching ramp.

8. Not yet estimated.

9. During the construction phase there would be employment for a varying size workforce for possible a year. It is difficult to be more specific as the final dam size and method of construction have not yet been determined. On completion there would need to be supervision by a ranger, and occasional opportunities would depend on what facilities and concessions were provided.

368 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to the Federal government's proposal to tax royalties paid to Aboriginals from mining development in the NT and ask:

1. Will mining royalties paid to Aboriginal land owners in the NT be taxed 32¢ out of each $5?

2. If so, why?

3. Is it a fact that State or Territory government mining royalties are not taxed by Federal government?

4. Will mining royalties which are paid to Aboriginal Land Councils be used for non-profit community advancement projects?

5. If so, why are royalties for non-profit community development being taxed?

ANSWER

See Standing Order No. 91. If the honourable member wishes an answer to this question he should refer it to the Commonwealth Commissioner of Taxation.

437 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Given that the complementary Aboriginal land rights legislation was passed through the Assembly last year and assented to early this year, what steps, if any, have been taken to establish the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Authority in the Territory?

What action, if any, has been taken by the NT government to record and protect Aboriginal sacred sites in the Territory?

ANSWER

While the complementary legislation in respect of Aboriginal sacred sites has been passed and assented to it has not yet been commenced. The reason for the delay is that there needed to be an agreement between the NT government and the Commonwealth government as to the funding necessary for the administration and application of this legislation. You will be aware that the operational costs of appointing members to the authority, arranging for meetings, employment of staff and provision of equipment represents a considerable cost and at a later date this may well be escalated by the need to provide physical protection of sites which are registered and also the need to pay compensation to land owners on whose properties sacred sites may exist. Agreement has now been reached on these financial arrangements and steps are now being taken to commence

the Act. This will involve seeking nominations for 7 members by the Land Councils, consideration of the appointment of 4 other members from disciplines approved by the Administrator and the appointment of a director by the authority who will be the twelfth member of the authority.

The recording of sites in the NT will be the responsibility of the authority to be set up under the legislation although some work has already been done on this by the NT Museums and Art Galleries Board and this data no doubt will be of great benefit to the authority.

439 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Is he aware that in the NT there appears to be inadequate control over the dumping of extremely dangerous chemicals and industrial waste in municipal tips?

2. If so, what action does he propose to take to remedy this situation?

ANSWER

I am aware that there are difficulties in controlling the dumping of noxious materials.

The Darwin City Council, in particular, has examined the possibility of creating a special dump, to cater for these materials.

Because of the high cost of developing and maintaining the facility, a substantial charge would need to be imposed on those using the dump and this could deter potential users.

A committee comprised of departmental and corporation of the City of Darwin representatives met in July 1977 to examine the need for particular treatment of noxious wastes in the Territory.

Since that time, an officer of the Water Division of the Department of Transport and Works has been involved with this problem through his membership of the Australian Environmental Council National Advisory Committee on Chemicals.

I now propose that a committee be reformed to examine the problem in the context of information which may have come to light since July 1977.

440 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Have six employees at Mt Wells Battery received letters advising them that they must relinquish prospecting licences which they hold in the area or lose their jobs at Mt Wells?

If this is a fact, is it intended to take similar action with regard to other public servants who hold prospecting licences?

ANSWER

In the past, it has been common practice for employees of government batteries to engage in mineral prospecting during their spare time and to obtain mining tenements near their places of employment. In most cases, staff have taken up such mining tenements as an off-duty hobby.

However, mining leases and prospecting areas carry obligations that they be worked on every working day, unless exemption has been granted for a specific period.

My department extends a lenient attitude in respect of bona fide small prospectors and allowances are made for the limited financial resources which they have to fulfil working conditions. This concession could not be supported in the case of a full-time government employee.

In some states, Mines departments require prospective employees to divest themselves of any interests they hold in mining tenements, while in other states the Mining Act strictly prohibits employees of Mines departments from holding any mining interests whatsoever.

After careful consideration, my department decided that members of its staff would not be permitted to continue to hold any interests in mining tenements and would not be supported in any future application for exploration or mining titles whilst remaining members of the staff. Employees have been allowed until 30 June 1979 to dispose of their mining interests, if they wish to remain with the department.

I am unaware of any implications for other public servants.

442 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Was the cattle turnoff for 1978, 290,000 head as stated by him on Thursday 1 March 1979 or 306, 162 head as stated in the Katherine Rural Review, March 1979 issue?

ANSWER

Recently completed statistics show the total turn-off (excluding inter-station and interdistrict turn-off) as 306,794 head.

The turn-off by destination was -

Interstate	180,312	head
Overseas	13,231	head
Territory abattoirs	113,251	head.

444 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Does he intend to have a review or "post mortem" of the 1978-79 cropping program with as many as possible of the people who attended the meeting in 1978 present?

2. Could this become an agricultural advisory body, or will the Minister rely on expert advice from his own department?

ANSWER

1. The government's Cropping Development Scheme has been under constant review during the 1978-79 season by the joint producer/government Cropping Development Committee. A public meeting will be held to examine results.

2. The Cropping Development Committee will advise the government on agricultural matters as will also my department.

446 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will his department cooperate fully with the Katherine Rural Education Centre by supplying expert and specialist lecturers and demonstrators (such as Mr Peter Flanigan for corrective horse shoeing) whenever possible?

ANSWER

In consultation with my colleague the Minister for Community Development, I have agreed that my department will cooperate with the Katherine Rural Education Centre by allowing staff to act as lecturers/demonstrators whenever possible. I should point out however that the decision to assist in that way must remain a personal one for the staff concerned and that the centre's activities cannot be given priority over departmental essential functions and responsibilities.

447 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What were the facts of the allegations made by the member for Stuart that the Alice Springs meatworks had acted improperly with regard to its export quota for beef?

ANSWER

Statements by members of the Legislative Assembly are their own responsibility. I am advised that information on exports of meat are supplied on a confidential basis by exporters to the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation.

448 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Realising the value of exports to markets other than the US for beef, does the loss of the Israeli requirement for boned forequarters of beef killed according to Jewish ritual to the Cairns Meat Export Company indicate disinterest on the part of the NT government or the need for a service meatworks to handle Kosher and Hallal kills?

ANSWER

I do not view the fact that the Cairns abattoir has negotiated a contract with Israel for Kosher slaughtered beef as an indication of disinterest by this government in locating similar markets for Territory beef. The plain fact is that through our 2 trade missions additional beef market opportunities have been identified for our producers. Happily it is clear that Australian producers as a whole have moved from a position of "depressed" to "selective" sellers and that this situation should remain for the next few years.

452 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Is he aware of available cargo space on jumbo jets travelling weekly from Darwin to Singapore?

2. Will he investigate the practicability of filling this space with beef, which seems to have a ready market in Singapore?

ANSWER

1. Yes. Cargo space for 16 tonnes capacity is available one day a week on Qantas and cost of freight is 38¢/kg for cargo over 2,000 kg. Investigation reveals this method of export was last used in 1978 when 2 shipments from a local abattoir were flown from Darwin to Singapore and subsequently trans-shipped to Kuala Lumpur.

2. Trans-shipment via Singapore creates 3 major problems which are obvious deterrents to use of this outlet -

- strict quarantine controls apply in exporting of beef of foreign origin ex Singapore;

- air freight rates are prohibitive, e.g. 57¢/kg Singapore to Kuala Lumpur;

- lack of adequate freezer-coolroom facilities in Singapore.

3. An office has been established in Singapore by the Australian Meat and livestock Corporation and a liaison has been established with this authority. Additionally, the "Export Now" campaign launched recently by the Australian government and endorsed by all state governments is available as an avenue through which enquiries regarding potential export opportunities may be channelled.

453 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is anything being done to send beef from Darwin to Hong Kong on Cathay Pacific flights?

ANSWER

No beef has been sent to Hong Kong via Cathay Pacific, although information on the cost and quarantinte restrictions is readily available at the company office in Darwin.

Further detail on export of beef by air has been supplied in answer to your question 452 of 2 April 1979.

454 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it possible to produce coffee and cocoa commercially in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The government has no information from either experimental or commercial crops which would enable it to provide a definitive statement on the economic prospects for coffee and cocoa production in the Northern Territory. Both crops have a high labour requirement and this may make their commercial development unattractive.

The government is not conducting any research and development projects on these crops at the present time and has no intention of commencing any in the near future.

460 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will the Northern Territory government set up an inquiry under the Inquiries Act into beef industry in the Territory with particular emphasis on the following:

1. alleged irregularities in regard to export quotas of the Alice Springs meatworks mentioned by the member for Stuart;

2. excessive profits made by Hooker Corporation Limited as quoted in the Sydney Morning Herald on 28 February 1979;

3. value of credit entitlements as contained in the Ed Souery prospectus for the Tennant Creek meatworks;

4. use of special export quota for North Australian meatworks granted to William Angliss and Company;

5. provision of service facilities for local consumption at licensed abattoirs and service facilities for export at export meatworks;

6. arbitrary trim for fat and bruising;

7. installation of electronic scales;

8. variation in yields between various killing facilities;

9. use of local labour;

10. participation by producers and producer organisations with the government agencies and the processors;

11. wide differences in prices paid to the producer in various parts of the Northern Territory for cattle destined for marketing to consumers paying comparable prices;

12. more efficient use of killing facilities;

13. publication of an indicative price;

14. methods of tenderising or making beef more attractive to consumers;

15. marketing methods to promote the sale of beef;

16. why is it more economical for Vesteys to shift their cattle to Queensland than to re-open their Darwin meatworks;

17. the economics of trading beef with South-East Asian countries in return for products such as petroleum, timber and fertilizers; and

18. any other factors relevant to the promotion of a strong and stable industry to assist the Territory's development and progress?

ANSWER

A number of issues raised by the honourable member for Elsey in his request for an inquiry into the beef industry in the Northern Territory have been dealt with by subsequent meetings of cattlemen, particularly at Katherine on 28 April. A recommendation made by the Cattlemen's Association at Katherine was that the Northern Territory government should agree to the formation of a committee of industry and government to investigate the more likely options for reform in the marketing of Northern Territory meat.

I support this recommendation and I hope to be able to advise this House shortly on the composition of the committee.

462 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How much is paid to Mr M. Maurice and Mr A. Narjic by way of -

(a) daily sitting fees; and

(b) other expenses,

for their work on the Liquor Commission?

ANSWER

His Honour the Administrator has determined that the fee for Mr Michael Maurice (being the barrister - member of the Liquor Commission) shall be $50 pr hour to a maximum of $250 per day for attendance at hearings or meetings in Darwin, and $70 per hour to a maximum of $350 per day for attendance at hearings or meetings away from Darwin. The fee for Mr Aloysius Narjic (being an ordinary member of the Commission) has been set at $54 per day or part thereof, flat rate. No other fees are payable. All travel and accommodation costs for members of the Commission are borne from the Commission budget.

464 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it intended to reconstitute the Special Branch of the Police Force to counter the activities of subversive elements?

ANSWER

There are no plans to reconstitute a Special Branch at this stage, as there appears to be no immediate need for the creation of such a unit. However, the Commissioner of Police has this matter constantly under review and if the situation changes, he will make an appropriate recommendation to the government.

470 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he investigate whether the freeze-drying process has any application in the Territory as a means of providing protein from feral animals?

ANSWER

Although it would be possible to use the freeze-drying process, there are 2 major limitations -

- the lower marketability of meat as a result of the process;

- the highly doubtful economic feasibility of the process which at a cost of approximately 30¢/kg is prohibitive. This does not include buying costs or freight.

As wet and dry petfood are sold for approximately 60¢/kg and 22¢/kg it is not considered that freeze-drying would be economically feasible.

472 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What is the per capita consumption of electricity in Katherine, Darwin, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs?

ANSWER

The annual per capita consumption of electricity in Katherine, Darwin, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs based upon units sent out from the Commission power stations and estimated population figures for the 4 centres as at 1 June 1979 are as follows:

Darwin	6,657	kw
Alice Springs	4,616	kw
Katherine	6,621	kw
Tennant Creek	5,200	kw

Electricity load growths in the 4 centres are currently:

Darwin	10%
Alice Springs	12%
Katherine	9%
Tennant Creek	12%

The comparatively high consumption per capita in Darwin and Katherine could probably be attributed to the use of airconditioners in the wet season. Although Tennant Creek and Alice Springs have a heating component in their electricity bills in the winter, evaporative cooling rather than airconditioning predominates for the southern summer months.

473 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it still the practice in the Northern Territory Public Service for prospective employees to undergo a medical examination before appointment to the Service?

2. Did the former Director of the Industry Promotion and Trade Delegation Division of the Department of Industrial Development undergo a medical exmaination before his appointment to that position?

3. If the answer to question 2. is yes, was the former Director of the Industry Promotion and Trade Delegation Division found to be in a satisfactory state of health on the date of his medical examination?

4. If the answer to question 2. is yes, on what date was the medical examination conducted?

5. On what date did the former Director of Industry Promotion and Trade Delegation Division -

   (a) take up the duties of his position; and

   (b) resign?

6. On how many working days during the period that he occupied the position was the former Director of the Industry Promotion and Trade Delegation Division absent from the Northern Territory on -

   (a) government business; and

   (b) sick leave?

ANSWER

1. The Australian Public Service Act and General Orders provide for the prospective employee to elect to sit for a medical examination prior to taking up appointment or after taking up appointment and within the 6 month probationary period. Since the transfer of functions the Northern Territory Public Service has adopted the same provisions but has not yet issued guidelines.

2. The former Director elected to sit for the medical examination during the probationary period. However, at the time of commencement of sick leave the medical examination had not been arranged.

3. Refer answer 2.

4. Refer answer 2.

5. (a) 6 November 1978.

   (b) With effect from close of business 30 March 1979.

6. (a) 26 working days including 16 days on South-East Asian Trade Mission.

   (b) 20 working days between 5 March 1979 and 30 March 1979.

475 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Does he intend to bring pressure on the Commonwealth Department of Transport -

(a) to have the air navigation regulations up-dated;

(b) to have provision made for business or corporate aviation; and

(c) to curtail the activities of illegal charter operators?

ANSWER

The Commonwealth is currently responsible for air matters in the Northern Territory through the Minister for Transport and his Department of Transport.

Matters raised in (a) and (b) will be taken up as appropriate with the Minister for Transport after consideration of a report on NT Air Matters being prepared by Mr F. Gallagher, Senior Transport Economist, currently on loan by arrangement with the Western Australian government, and consideration of other views that may be provided.

Questions regarding illegal charter operators are matters of law and people with knowledge of illegal charter operations should refer them to the Federal Department of Transport. In this respect, I have been making representation to the Minister for Transport for more than 12 months to have a senior transport department officer based in Darwin so that amongst other duties, he would be on the spot to receive and examine complaints concerning air matters for which the Commonwealth is responsible.

477 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What position does Mr D. Veal occupy in the Northern Territory Public Service?

2. What are Mr Veal's responsibilities?

ANSWER

The terms and conditions of employment of members of the Northern Territory Public Service do not fall within my area of responsibility.

478 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Who were on the interview panel which appointed Mr N. Ashe as Deputy Director, Institutions?

2. How many applications were received?

3. What are Mr Ashe's qualifications?

4. Who were on the interview panel which appointed Mr G. Sutton as Superintendent, Darwin Gaol?

5. How many applications were there for the position?

6. What are Mr Sutton's qualifications?

ANSWER

1. Mr F. Cassidy at that time, Deputy Director of Correctional Services, South Australia and Mr G. Godwin, Director, Local Government Division, Department of Community Development.

2. Nine applications were received.

3. Mr Ashe has had extensive experience in correctional services having worked in the Singapore, West Australian and Papua New Guinea services. At the West Australian Institute of Technology, Mr Ashe has completed:

   - the diploma of Welfare Psychology;
   - the diploma of Public Administration;
   - the certificate of Personnel Management; and
   - the diploma in Personnel Management.

4. Mr N. Ashe, Deputy Director (Institutions); Mr R. Donnelly, Deputy Director (Field); Mr J.E. Williams (Superintendent Grade 2).

5. Nine applications were received.

6. Mr Sutton has had extremely wide ranging experience at all levels of prisons operation and management. He has worked in the Queensland, Papua New Guinea and ACT services before coming to the Northern Territory. Whilst in New Guinea, Mr Sutton filled a number of positions including those of Inspector of Prisons, Senior Inspector and culminating in Assistant Commissioner. Additionally he was at various times in charge of 3 major institutions and Officer Commanding Papua New Guinea Correctional Services Training Centre.

479 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Further to question 448, does he recognise the fact that if a service meatworks to handle Kosher and Hallal kills in the Territory was established, then contracts such as that between Israel and the Cairns abattoir need not be lost?

ANSWER

No.

482 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What steps are being taken to reconstruct the original Elsey Homestead on its actual site as a tourist attraction and as part of the NT heritage?

ANSWER

No action is presently proposed to reconstruct the original Elsey Homestead on its actual site.

However, the National Trust of Australia (Northern Territory) has received a grant under the National Estate program for 1978-79 to carry out pre-

liminary archaeological investigations prior to capital works on significant sites and structures.

Included in this program is an item for preliminary field investigations to determine the exact site and building layout of the Elsey Homestead (We of the Never, Never).

484 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What steps is he taking to get district allowances for pensioners in line with similar allowances for public servants?

ANSWER

Some preliminary consideration has been given to the appropriateness of district allowances for pensioners in the Northern Territory. There are many technical problems, not the least of which is the fact that such an allowance would be treated as income and may affect the level of pension provided by the Department of Social Security.

The government recently announced concessions for pensioners. Other measures to provide relief are being examined.

485 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will he appoint a community worker to work with black and white communities to facilitate understanding across the cultures, as requested by the Katherine Regional Parish Council of the Uniting Church of Australia?

ANSWER

The Katherine Regional Parish Council of the Uniting Church has not placed a submission before my department in its own right, but rather invited the Aboriginal Advisory and Development Services to do so. The AADS is an agency of the Uniting Church which is specifically concerned with work among Aboriginal communities and groups. This agency has submitted for funds to employ 2 community workers to facilitate the development of better cross-cultural understanding in the Katherine region.

The submission showed an appreciation of the community development principles which are the basis of my department's approach to community work. However, it is felt that far more consultation should be had between the AADS and other organisations already working in the Katherine area. This consultation should most certainly be extended to the Aboriginals.

Before making a decision regarding this submission, further discussions are being carried on between the Aboriginal Advisory and Development Services and officers of my department to discover what form of assistance if any, the AADS may need to extend consultation and to firm up the details of the program they are proposing.

486 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Do the Greek and Chinese communities obtain permits under the law to use fireworks on feast and holy days and, if so, what precautions are taken to ensure that the fireworks are used in a safe manner and are prosecutions launched when they are misused?

ANSWER

Yes, permits are obtained under the Explosives Act. Conditions under which the permits are issued include -

- limitations on the size of fireworks;
- times they are to be discharged;
- where they are to be discharged; and
- who can discharge them.

Additionally, the permission of the Fire Brigade and City Council is required before such a permit is issued. Notification to the Police is required as well.

Prosecutions are launched when the persons responsible for the misuse are caught, however, in instances such as the last Greek Easter celebrations where over 2,000 people were in attendance, it was impossible to detect who was throwing the bombs.

Regulations are being drafted to restrict the sale of reloading powder, which has been the main ingredient in the bombs used at the Greek Easter celebrations. It is not our intention, however, to restrict the person who genuinely uses the gunpowder to reload his own cartridges.

523 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Is he aware of the statement contained in the Ed Souery prospectus for Tennant Creek meatworks (page 54, paragraph 3) that -

   "The grant of 2,000 tons (of export quota to the Alice Springs meatworks) was at the time equivalent to a grant of something in excess of $2,000,000 in value."?

2. Does he agree with this particular statement in the prospectus?

ANSWER

1. I presume Mr Speaker that the "prospectus" to which you refer is a report prepared by consultants for Edward Souery and Company Pty Ltd on the establishment of a Tennant Creek meatworks. I am aware that the statement to which you refer was contained in that report.

2. The value of the quota to the Alice Springs meatworks presumably would need to be measured in terms of the company's profitability in meeting its contractual arrangements. In the absence of supporting data or access to the books of account of the Alice Springs meatworks, I am unable to comment on the accuracy of the statement made.

494 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware that road works on the Stuart Highway, Berrimah, have now been going on for more than a year? Is he aware that small businesses in the vicinity have suffered severe losses due to poor access to Berrimah Road? Can he inform the House how much longer the operation will take? Does the government intend to compensate businesses in the region which have suffered those losses?

ANSWER

The government is aware of the inconvenience to the shopkeepers in the Berrimah area. You will appreciate that the contract was not one of ours and this was not a matter of avoiding responsibility. By re-routing the road, we have alleviated this problem of inconvenience to a certain degree. I am not too sure when the contract expires but, as far as we are concerned, the matter is well in hand. Compensation will be a matter between the shopkeepers and their own legal advisers.

495 Mr VALE to Mr SPEAKER

This Assembly last year passed a motion requiring all members to lodge with the Clerk details of their financial affairs. This requirement, which is unique in Australian parliaments, has been in operation for almost 12 months. Can he advise if any person has sought to inspect the statements of any of the members in the register and, if so, who made the inquiry and was he or she granted access to the files?

ANSWER

I am advised by the Clerk that a Mr Peter Julian Hansen made a request to inspect the statement of pecuniary interests in the register under Mr Everingham's name and was granted access to that. Also, the Clerk advises that Mr Hansen requested to view the pecuniary interests of all ministers.

496 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise the present waiting period for appointments for treatment at the Dental Clinic?

ANSWER

The waiting time for patients visiting Northern Territory dental clinics varies considerably. For most patients who require immediate attention, there is a twice-daily period held in the Darwin clinic and a once-daily period held in most other clinics for emergency work in the dental field. For people requiring dentures or replacement of dentures, there is a waiting time of 4 to 6 months and for most people requiring an annual check-up or a periodic check-up the waiting time is about 10 to 12 months.

While I am on my feet, I would just like to make a point that has been brought to my attention by the department. The waiting time that people are subjected to could be reduced very substantially if people went out of their way to keep appointments that they made with the dental clinics. Honourable members might be interested to know that up to 100 appointments per month are broken in the Darwin Dental Clinic alone. Given that a normal appointment would take 30 to 40 minutes, that is an awful lot of lost time where some people cannot be treated and staff stand around without a full workload. I am sure that, if any honourable member gets a chance to defend the position of the department in this matter and

encourage people to be prompt and attend appointments that they make, it would be a great service to the whole community.

497 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Did the Territory Development Corporation recommend to the Northern Territory government that a special purpose lease be granted to Barkly Tablelands Export Meat Company Pty Ltd to operate an export abattoir at Tennant Creek?

ANSWER

The TCD in its first deliberations on the question of the Tennant Creek abattoir made a qualified recommendation to the government that it accept, in the first instance, Barkly Meats. On reconsideration of the question, the TDC advised the government that they had no hesitation in saying that both operators would be capable of operating an abattoir in Tennant Creek.

498 Mr BALLANTYNE to TREASURER

Is the Treasurer aware of reports that, if liquor taxation was increased by 1%, the price of beer would rise by 8 cents a glass? Can he inform the House if this projection is correct?

ANSWER

In the press of late, there have been unfounded allegations that there would be a rise in liquor tax and that, if the liquor tax was lifted by 1%, this would in fact lead to an increase in the price of a glass of beer by something between 5 cents and 8 cents. I can assure honourable members that the effect of such a hypothetical increase would be no such amount; it would be nearer to the figure of 1 cent per glass of beer.

499 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it true that Barkly Tablelands Export Meat Company would have been able to complete their construction of the site within 4 months of a decision in their favour?

ANSWER

We doubt very much whether the Barkly meat people would have been able to live up to an expectation that they had raised with us. I must say that the government took a fair while to make its decision on the Tennant Creek abattoir; it was not taken lightly. In the final analysis, because one company was already established in the meat marketing business and was, in fact, slaughtering cattle, they had an advantage over the other outfit which, at the time that it made its application, was not financially in business for itself. The decision was made on that basis.

500 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER

When will the Batchelor Town Plan go on display?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, all town plans take far longer than we would hope. However, the Batchelor Town Plan has been receiving some priority in the past few months and I am informed that the plan, after having gone to the Town Planning Board, will go on display in Batchelor on 23 May. It is

proposed to hold a public meeting in Batchelor about 7 to 10 days after it goes on display and explain the plan to residents in Batchelor.

501 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

My question relates yet again to the question of the introduction of legislation to control the use of antibiotics in stock feeds. Can he advise the House who comprise the technical working party to examine and develop this legislation and when it is likely that they will report to the minister?

ANSWER

I have not got that information in front of me at this stage. I will report back to the honourable member later in the day.

502 Mr VALE to Mr SPEAKER

Can he advise whether Mr Peter Hansen was required to present to the Clerk of this House his bona fides and, if so, what were they?

ANSWER

I request the honourable member to place the question on notice because the question is directed to the Clerk through me. I will find out the information the honourable member requires.

503 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the Minister for Industrial Development himself recommended to the Cabinet that it adopt the Territory Development Corporation recommendation that the special purpose lease be granted to Barkly Tablelands Export Meat Company for an export abattoir at Tennant Creek?

Mr EVERINGHAM: If I might intervene at this point. In my view, the question is an improper one. The honourable Leader of the Opposition should be aware of the principles of Cabinet secrecy and solidarity and certainly, so far as I am concerned, there will be no answer given to that question.

Mr SPEAKER: The question, in my view, is a proper one and should be answered if the Minister should so desire. The honourable minister has no requirement to answer questions if he does not want to and he has a further recourse to have the question placed on notice.

Mr STEELE: Mr Speaker, I stand behind the Chief Minister in this respect although I would say to you, Sir, that in the portfolio arrangements as disclosed in this House and elsewhere, it is well known that I have the carriage of primary industry matters and, in that context, obviously, I would be placing before Cabinet matters of that kind.

505 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware of reports circulating in the community that widespread and significant taxation increases will be introduced by the government? Can he indicate the truth or otherwise of these claims?

ANSWER

I am aware of the continued series of unfounded assumptions and allegations that the government is on the verge of implementing vicious tax

increases. It does concern me that such unfounded claims continue to be repeated in the press day after day and I think that they cause unnecessary concern to the community in the Northern Territory. The only explanation that I have for the continuation of these allegations is that the opposition believes that it is in the throes of an election compaign. You will recall their election campaign when they had an impeccable source in Canberra who predicted a $14m taxation increase for the Northern Territory a couple of years ago. Just before self-government, we heard again from them that, without any question of doubt, the Northern Territory would be some $50m to $60m short in its funding for the Northern Territory as a result of self-government. Of course, at that time, the Leader of the Opposition was waging a campaign against self-government and was doing all he could to scare and motivate the people of the Territory to oppose what has been the most beneficial constitutional move ever to take place for Territorians. The attitude of the opposition in attempting to scare the public about tax increases and the financial viability of the Territory generally does nothing at all for its credibility and I believe that its record on financial affairs over the past 2 years is in a mess. It plucks figures out of the air which have no basis or foundation whatsoever. I think that it is about time that it had a good hard look at its responsibilities to the electorate.

506 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is Edward Souery and Sons being loaned $1m for the establishment of an abattoir at Tennant Creek? Has the Territory Development Corporation secured a first mortgage on the loan over the land and buildings?

ANSWER

The processes that will finalise the transfer of moneys to the Souery Company have not been completed. At that time, there will be a first mortgage arrangement which will be satisfactory to us.

507 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Would the Chief Minister advise of any proposals to substantially increase the penalties for illegal use of motor vehicles in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The present position as to what may be broadly called illegally using a motor vehicle is two-fold. Firstly, if intent to deprive the owner of the vehicle can be proved, the offender can be charged with simple larceny and sentenced to a maximum of 2 years imprisonment. This is pursuant to section 135 of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act. However, as the intent to permanently deprive the owner of his vehicle is usually difficult to establish in the case of wrongful use of motor vehicles, the offender is usually charged with illegal use of a motor vehicle. This is pursuant to section 49A of the Police Offences Act which provides for a maximum fine of $1,000 or imprisonment for a maximum of 6 months or both.

Under the proposed criminal code which is in the process of being drafted at the present time, and which will certainly be released for public comment long before it goes through this House, pursuant to the combined effect of proposed clauses 392(15)(a) and (b) and 393, any illegal use of a motor vehicle is deemed to be theft for which the offender can be sentenced to imprisonment and hard labour for a maximum term of 10 years. Proposed clause 292(15)(a) provides that use or attempted use of, inter alia, a motor vehicle, without the consent of the owner or person in lawful possession thereof, shall be conclusive proof of intent to

permanently deprive the owner of it. Proposed clause 393 provides for the penalty for theft. Furthermore, if the offender is convicted of stealing or attempting to steal a vehicle with intent to use it in the commission of a felony, it is additionally provided in proposed clause 399 that he is liable to be imprisoned for a minimum term of 6 months.

508 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Apart from the driving in of a peg, which the minister performed so capably at Tennant Creek, when will construction on the Tennant Creek abattoir commence, and when is the abattoir expected to commence its operation?

ANSWER

We expect construction of the abattoir to be completed by the end of the year and I am hopeful that they will be able to process a small number of cattle by this time. This is just to ensure that the abattoir is operational and that its recruitment program can take place knowing that there will be a full season ahead of it.

509 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he inform the House when the final report of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission will be tabled in this House, bearing in mind that the commission dissolved some 17 months ago?

ANSWER

The reports of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission do not have to be tabled in this House as a statutory requirement. However, they have been in the past and I have been seeking recently the whereabouts of the final report of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission so that I could table it in the House and complete the record. However, the report is still in the draft stage and is held by the last Chairman of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission, Mr Clem Jones. I have sought from Mr Jones a date when he expects the report to be printed so that I can then obtain copies. Consequently, I cannot give a specific date to the member for Port Darwin.

510 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

What are the reasons for the change in the public service home sale scheme whereby eligible public servants can now apply to purchase only the house in which they currently reside?

ANSWER

The reasons for the change are many and varied. One is that the government is not a speculative builder providing a range of houses from which people can choose to buy. Would-be tenants of public service houses are given the choice of 2 houses when they first move in. One would assume that this provides an opportunity to make a preference and it is reasonable to assume that the purchase of that house which they have chosen to rent would be satisfactory. However, if the honourable member for Sanderson chooses to put this question on notice, I would be prepared to supply her with further details. I can only say that I believe that, in the matter of attracting staff to the Northern Territory, the public service housing scheme, as it presently stands, is quite satisfactory. I know of no other home sales scheme anywhere for staff, certainly outside the public service, where anyone has such a choice of housing as

is and will be the case with the new Territory scheme. People will have the choice of 2 in the first place and, if the house is good enough for them to move in and rent it, surely it should be good enough for them to purchase.

511 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he inform me if the contract for building the new Nhulunbuy High School has been let and, if so, what are the estimated starting and completion dates?

ANSWER

I understand that the contract should be let within the next couple of weeks and the construction period should commence within several weeks of that. The overall construction period, I understand, is expected to be about 18 months. That should give the honourable member some idea of the time span.

512 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

If, as he says, the public service housing scheme is operating so admirably - and I certainly hope it is - why is it necessary to buy a house on the open market at a fairly high price of $89,000 for the gentleman to run the Territory Insurance Office?

ANSWER

The simple answer is that it was cheaper than building one. In fact, the current executive houses which are in the process of being built for the Northern Territory government run out at very much the same price and, in any event, there are none available. If the Territory Insurance Office is to be established by 1 July, it was necessary that the Northern Territory attract a suitably qualified executive to take command of that insurance office. I understood, Mr Speaker, that it was the desire of all honourable members of this House to see the Territory Insurance Office up and running at the earliest available date and indeed getting into the full field of general insurance business. If private enterprise has to offer good housing accommodation to its executives to get them here, I see no reason why the government should not do likewise. In any event, the Territory Insurance Office is to be a statutory corporation outside the public service. We trust that it will make profits and, in due course, the cost of that house - I think it was $87,000 or $89,000 - will be repaid to the public purse by the Territory Insurance Office.

513 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the government reviewed the Apprentices Act and, if so, when will amendments be introduced into this Assembly?

ANSWER

My department is in the process of reviewing, in consultation with other interested bodies, the Apprentices Act. Unfortunately, I have not been able to pay as much attention to this particular matter as I would have liked. We had hoped to introduce the legislation at this sittings of the Assembly but I do not expect that it will be possible to do so now. Certainly, I look forward to the legislation being introduced at the next sittings.

514 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he inform the House, either now or at some time today, whether or not the house that is being purchased on behalf of the general manager of the insurance office has a certificate of compliance with the Darwin Building Code? This is given, of course, by the Building Board, the Chairman of which is none other than Mr B. Wyatt?

ANSWER

I will undertake to find out whether the house concerned has a certificate of compliance.

515 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER

Given a considerable debate outside this House on the government's quarterly accounts, would he please clarify what the accounts represent? Will he also indicate why there are receipt and expenditure variations between each quarter?

ANSWER

I do feel that it is necessary, even amongst the giggles from the opposition, to give a simple explanation of what exactly the quarterly accounts are. This is appropriate having regard to the fiasco that has been perpetrated through the press over the first two quarterly statements issued by this government, although there was a notable absence of this with regard to the third. I would like to point out principally that the quarterly accounts as gazetted by the government are, in fact, a statement of account and not a statement of the financial performance of government. This is a very basic point that the opposition never seems to have been able to grasp to date. They have never understood that the quarterly accounts could do anything other than represent 25% of the year's finances for a government and that they should all be equal. They have clearly indicated that that is the only way they can see them happening. They have no comprehension at all of the cyclical curve in either expenditure or revenue of all governments. They have persisted continually with a campaign to influence and undermine the confidence that the people of the Northern Territory have in this government with unfounded allegations that there will be over-expenditure or under-expenditure or not enough money raised during the year.

They have also drawn other unfounded allegations that, if we do not get enough money during the year, we will have to raise taxes. Of course, taxes would take effect in the following year anyway and would not help us out of a problem in the current year if that was the case. I do feel, Mr Speaker, that there has been a great deal said in the press that has caused confusion in the community. I believe that it was done deliberately and I feel that it is timely to repeat that the opposition should take a very strong look at its responsibilities to the electorate as an opposition. We trust that the well-publicised financial wiz that the Leader of the Opposition is now getting on his staff will inform him of some of the facts of financial administration.

516 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

He may recall that his predecessor assured this Assembly last February that the juvenile detention centre at Malak would be occupied within a few weeks. Will the acting minister advise whether juvenile offenders are in fact in residence at Malak?

ANSWER

Advertisements are to appear in the national and local press on 18 May for house parents to manage this centre. We anticipate that these people will be recruited and the centre will be operating by the end of July.

517 Mr OLIVER to TREASURER

The government's recent submission to the Grants Commission highlighted the present low taxation levels in the Northern Territory as compared with other states. Does this indicate that the Northern Territory will be obliged to increase those taxes, as was reported in the press?

ANSWER

Again, we have an example of press speculation that results from releases by the opposition. Because the Grants Commission have studied the Northern Territory's financial situation and we have represented that we are charging in the Territory less state-type taxation than exists in the states, the opposition have drawn the conclusion that that obviously means that taxes have to go up. They have said it continuously and they have said it loudly. I believe it is just another example of scaring the community deliberately to try to undermine the confidence in this new Territory government.

The specific answer to the question is that the speculation about tax increases is not warranted. The government remains a free agent in taxation matters. The Grants Commission cannot direct the Northern Territory government to increase taxation and neither can the Commonwealth government. To draw any conclusions about whether or not the grants Commission will accept the Territory government's arguments for its specific disabilities, as far as revenue-raising is concerned, simply belies a comprehension of the normal Commonwealth-state financial relationship and also belies an understanding of how the Grants Commission have fitted in with that relationship over the past 30 years with those states that have been claimants.

518 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it the intention of the government to proceed with the Employment (Leave of Absence) Bill at this sittings?

ANSWER

It is not the intention of the government to proceed with that bill at this sittings.

519 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

I have noticed in some areas that impact barriers have been placed around fibreglass electricity distribution boxes and pillars. Can he inform me whether similar barriers will be placed around all distribution pillars in the future?

ANSWER

The short answer is no. Very simply, the Electricity Commission has a policy of putting barriers around distribution boxes where there is a need, particularly where these boxes are exposed to traffic hazards on intersections and in car parks, but not as a normal matter of course. One of the prohibitive factors is the very high cost of these barriers.

Another factor is that quite often barriers do nothing to enhance the aesthetics of the area.

520 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of the fact that the mining of the extremely rich uranium ore at Nabarlek is about to commence almost immediately, has an appointment been made by the Department of Health for a specialist position to oversee radiation monitoring in the uranium province?

ANSWER

I would ask that I have a few hours to get the information on that today.

521 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he advise if a decision has been made to introduce uniform roadline markings in the Northern Territory? If so, will Victorian criteria be used, for example, priority roads?

ANSWER

I understand from the Department of Transport and Works that it has been decided to adopt the Standards Association of Australia practice in respect of linemarking. We will be advising local authorities in this respect and, at the same time, we will be looking at the aspect of priority roads for cities and towns in the Northern Territory.

522 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is it a fact that a process of accelerated allocation of houses from the public housing stock in Darwin is being afforded to persons arriving from southern cities who are to be engaged in the mining industry?

ANSWER

The procedure which has to be gone through for a person to achieve an out-of-turn allocation in the Housing Commission is very detailed and very comprehensive. The matter goes through a range of committees before a decision is finally made that a person can jump the housing list and receive immediate accommodation. At this stage, there is no particular time limit on a person's residence in the Northern Territory although there is good argument for this and some states have a 3 month residential criterion before one can apply for emergency housing. This is aimed at stopping people coming across the borders, if they are in dire circumstances on one state, to get accommodation in an emergency situation. The Territory is a fair way away from most large centres of population and people have to travel a fair distance to come to the Northern Territory. It is unlikely that people would do so just to get accelerated priority for housing. The Housing Commission will look at every case of need and, unfortunately, it is getting an increasing number of applications for out-of-turn allocations from people with some very sad stories about their accommodation situation including living in cars with children and so on. Each is dealt with on its merits although a fairly hard line has to be taken on this because there is a reasonably long waiting list for housing and each person who is housed out of turn puts that waiting list back by one house. There are people on the waiting list who are in difficult circumstances through paying rents to the private market that, on their particular incomes, are fairly high. These people are

prepared to sit and wait their turn and so a hard line has to be taken towards out-of-turn allocations. If the honourable member gives me some specific details, I can inquire into the matter and advise her about any particular applicants or their background.

535 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is the minister able to give any indication when the landbacked wharf will be operational?

ANSWER

The tenders for the main wharf contract close on 24 May 1979. The contract has a construction period of 86 weeks and is therefore due for completion after that in March 1981. The wharf will be operational immediately and future stages will be undertaken progressively. I might just add that a 20-tonne portal crane and bulk hopper will go with the wharf and this is included in the 1979-80 capital works proposals at $2.5m. The design and manufacture of the crane will have a lead time of 15 months from the date of placement of the order and the erection and commissioning will require 3 months. The order must be placed by January 1980 so that the crane is ready for installation when the wharf is completed.

536 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Would he inform the House what measures are proposed for the control or eradication of the spread of noxious weeds such as parkinsonia, mimosa, salvinia, water hyacinth and many others in the Territory? Is it a fact that mimosa was virtually eradicated in the Northern Territory when the program was stopped? Incidentally, it has taken hold completely in the Adelaide River area. Is it a fact that the Department of Primary Industry has only one weed agronomist with only 2 or possibly 3 assistants?

ANSWER

I am sure you would not like question time to extend into the night so I would ask the honourable gentleman to place his question on notice.

537 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

The Liquor Act has not established any trading hours for licensed premises. What is the Liquor Commission doing about this?

ANSWER

During the passage of the Liquor Bill, the government, with the support of the opposition, made a deliberate decision not to specify trading hours for licensed premises within the act. This was based on the premises that the community should be able to operate trading hours for liquor outlets that were in keeping with their particular community.

For the time being, the Liquor Commission is continuing with the hours that were in existence before it took over. It has started an inquiry on the broad issue of trading hours for licensed premises throughout the Territory and has received many submissions. The commission has already sat in Alice Springs and Darwin and has received many written submissions from people who cannot appear before it. It is anticipated that later in the year the commission will be including in its annual report its recommendations on future trading hours for respective communities.

538 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is it a fact that a certificate of compliance in respect of a house at Basedow Street which was purchased by the government for the manager designate of the Territory Insurance Office was issued by the Building Board only at 4 pm yesterday? Is it further a fact that the modifications

required to obtain the certificate of compliance were only completed at 7.30 am today?

ANSWER

The answer to the first part of the question is that a certificate was not issued yesterday; it was issued this morning. I think that would probably cover the second part of her question as well.

539 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In view of the increasingly higher values of land in urban areas and realising McMillan's Road cemetery will be filled some time, has consideration been given to the installation or a feasibility study on the installation of a crematorium in Darwin and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

The Darwin City Council has conducted extensive investigations into the feasibility of installing a crematorium in Darwin. However, due to the high capital costs and the relatively low population in Darwin, the installation of the unit will not be economically viable for some time to come. I must add that some of the ethnic groups within our community have requested that a crematorium be built in the Top End. The remaining life of McMillian's Road cemetery is 5 years. After that, a new cemetery will be opened on land near the Thorak Reserve. As far as a crematorium is concerned, there is no answer at the moment.

540 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has he received a submission from the Environmental Council of the Northern Territory for funding a study of conservation priorities in the Reynolds River/Daly River area of the Northern Territory? If so, what action has he taken on the submission?

ANSWER

I am unable to answer the honourable member's question. However, I will obtain the information and supply it to him at a later hour.

541 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has consideration been given to reviewing the current B5 zoning which applies generally along the Esplanade and side streets, including parts of Mitchell Street?

ANSWER

The zone B5 in the Darwin Town Plan is a tourist industry zone which is designed to specifically limit the prime area of Darwin to tourist-type development. This has received a great deal of criticism since the Darwin Town Plan was adopted. The Department of Lands and Housing planning section will undertake a review of that particular zoning with a view to coming up with an interim use to which land in the area may be put so that the severe economic loss to certain owners of land in the area will not continue.

542 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

The minister's department customarily puts on display plans for proposed road constructions in Darwin and other areas of the Northern Territory. Curiously, this has not happened with the proposed Ludmilla-Fannie Bay connector and associated works to be carried out by the city council. Will the minister undertake to have those plans put on display as soon as possible so that the people affected may have the benefit of seeing them?

ANSWER

After the Town Planning Board has heard all the objections, the Department of Transport and Works will place the plan on display. I can understand the honourable member's concern for some of the planning proposals that involve her electorate and I sympathise with her. I am against some of those proposals myself.

543 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for HEALTH

People in wheelchairs and those pushing prams find it difficult to move from the car park into the Alice Springs Hospital. Can be give me an assurance that a ramp will be constructed against the offending curbing to allow easier access?

ANSWER

That would be a reasonably simple matter to have fixed and is one that could be done at a local level in Alice Springs. I would not think that there would be much money involved and I will undertake to satisfy the honourable member's request.

544 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

A residence on East Point Road is being modified for the Chairman of the Electricity Commission, Mr Dryer. Is it a fact that the Housing Commission bought this residence from the Commonwealth at a cost of $19,000 and is now offering it for sale to the Electricity Commission at a cost of $54,000 in virtually the same state?

ANSWER

I think the house to which the honourable member refers is not on East Point Road but at Myilly Point. However, the house which has been earmarked for use by the Northern Territory Electricity Commission for its commissioner was in fact taken over by the Northern Territory government for $19,000. If I recall my instructions on this matter, the house was to be transferred to the Electricity Commission for the same price as it does require some fairly extensive work to be done on it and it will not be a cheap house even when it is finished.

545 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he inform me whether a decision has been made on Nhulunbuy government housing in relation to the recent inspection which looked at possible ways of improving cross-flow ventilation and or installing some form of air-conditioning to the already existing ducting?

ANSWER

The situation in Nhulunbuy has not escaped the Northern Territory government's attention. Well before self-government, there were complaints that houses occupied by public servants in Nhulunbuy which were built by Nabalco were not airconditioned whereas those occupied by Nabalco employees were airconditioned. After an inspection by government officers, it was decided that work would be undertaken to install fans and improve ventilation in these houses. However, the government is not prepared, in this instance, to aircondition the houses.

546 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Have funding arrangements been completed between the Northern Territory and Commonwealth governments for the financing of standby generators at Berrimah?

ANSWER

The officials of both the Northern Territory and the federal government treasuries are still negotiating the financial arrangements for the Northern Territory for the next financial year and this particular item is on the program.

547 Mr VALE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will he undertake to conduct a study into the introduction of a meat-marketing authority for the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

We have been considering the introduction of such an authority and officers of my department have travelled Australia looking at abattoirs and talking to the various state authorities. We are also analysing the Prices Justification Tribunal Report on beef marketing which identified no areas where either the producer or consumer was being deliberately ripped off. Should the government decide to establish a marketing authority for beef, it will be important to ensure that the powers and functions of the body are suited to the industry situation in the Northern Territory. We will be seeking the views of cattle-producer organisations, meat-works managements, union representatives and the transport industry before reaching any final decision. At a meeting last month which was attended by the Chief Minister and those Top End cattlemen interested in the future marketing of beef, officers of my department presented a series of papers for discussion and I am looking forward to receiving the views of industry organisations in due course.

548 Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

Does the Northern Territory government receive detailed telephone accounts for each government department or is the government bulk-billed?

ANSWER

Each separate extension number is not separately billed for the Northern Territory government. The main government exchange, number 895511, has some 1600 extensions and is billed under 80 different charge numbers. In the case of the Public Service Commissioner's Office, the 79 extension exchange operates under one charge number during office hours with 12 after-hours lines which are subject to individual billing. The Health Department operates an exchange on 802911 and all calls are billed on one charge number in respect of the 700 extensions.

549 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer the minister to a statement that he made in February this year. When does his government propose to introduce legislation to enable over-the-counter land sales on time payment?

ANSWER

The latest information I have on this matter is that legislation may not

be necessary. The department is currently consulting with the Department of Law to ensure that procedures can be implemented under existing legislation to enable us to sell land over the counter.

550 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I thank him for his earlier expressed concern about planning proposals affecting Fannie Bay. Will he undertake to have the Ludmilla-Fannie Bay connector road plans put on display as I do not believe that these are subject to any Town Planning Board decisions.

ANSWER

Yes.

551 Mr HARRIS to TREASURER:

Is the Treasurer able to give to me the total government phone bill for last year?

ANSWER

I have had some forewarning of this question. I have been able to establish the bill incurred by the Northern Territory executive in 1977/78 although that is probably not the full answer that the honourable member requires. He was probably referring to all government phones in the Northern Territory. However, for the area that we were responsible for, the cost of postage, telephones and telegrams was $324,001. No separate figures for telephones is available but it is estimated to be 80% of the total cost. I point out that that was for the year 1977/78 which was the year before self-government and the year for which a full and detailed figure is available.

552 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

My question concerns the so-called Gilson litter report which contains a recommendation to the members of the beverage and packaging industry group that they develop a detailed recycling plan to be presented to the government. Has this been prepared and presented and, if so, will the Chief Minister make it available to members of the House?

ANSWER

The Gilson report has yet to be debated in this House and I hope that time will be found during these sittings to enable its debate. The beverage or packaging industry may have regarded the preparation of a detailed submission to the government as premature until such time as this House has expressed its views on the report and its recommendations. I do believe, although I make no categorical assurance to the honourable member for Nightcliff, that tentative proposals are being formulated and a figure of $300,000 has been mentioned as that which the beverage and packaging industry is prepared to put into a plan involving recycling and the possible elimination of litter as one of the major menaces of life in the Northern Territory. I will certainly undertake to find out definitely whether the industry has put forward a definite proposal to the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission, but I very much doubt whether there is anything as firm as that at this stage.

553 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What arrangements are proposed for the re-routing of Bagot Road traffic

during the construction of the Bagot Road - Stuart Highway overpass?

ANSWER

I would hope they would come down the Nightcliff - Fannie Bay connector road.

554 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the government made a decision on the future use of the grounds previously used by Flagstaff House?

ANSWER

At this stage, the government has taken no decision on the future use of the site. Under the current Darwin Town Plan, I think the site is an 02 site. However, the government is open to proposals on this matter.

555 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of the fact that uranium mining will commence at Nabarlek within the next 2 weeks, is the Northern Territory government able to provide adequate monitoring and supervision at the commencement of the mining operation? What steps will be taken at the commencement of the mining operation to ensure that workers' safety and environmental safeguards are implemented?

ANSWER

The Department of Mines and Energy has had an inspectorial staff visiting Nabarlek for over 2 weeks on a day-to-day basis. This is because there has not been any accommodation available for them on the site and they have had to either fly or drive out and then had to come back as the demand required. Accommodation is now available at Nabarlek and, as of Monday last, 3 officers of the department have taken up permanent residence. The monitoring equipment will be installed as one of their first functions and, apart from the monitoring of the radio-active parts of the area, they will also be involved in industrial safety and general mines' safety practice on the site.

556 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can the minister advise when the Northern Territory Board of Inquiry into Welfare Needs will report on its findings?

ANSWER

In about 6 to 8 weeks.

557 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer the honourable minister to the answer given to my previous question. As the government now proposes that the proposed Leanyer subdivision will be sold through private agents, is it a fact that the government does not now propose to introduce legislation to enable over-the-counter land sales to be made on time payment?

ANSWER

The answer to the question overall is no. The government is not proposing to get out of its undertaking to sell land over the counter in the future.

The subdivision she refers to is a considerable way off as far as turning land off is concerned and we propose to put both blocks that are currently available and those that will be available through other minor subdivisions which are under way now around Darwin on sale over the counter as soon as we possibly can. The fact that a percentage of the new subdivision at Leanyer was proposed to be put to private subdivision will only support the government's moves to have land available to the community on an application basis rather than holding them up and putting them to auction from time to time.

558 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is the minister aware of the importance placed on technical education in the report of the Williams committee which inquired into education and training and what does he intend to do about it in the Territory?

ANSWER

The honourable member quite rightly referred to the Williams report which will be discussed at length by ministers in Melbourne at the end of this month. The Williams report was a 1500 page document primarily devoted to the transfer from school to the work place. I have asked the Department of Education to explore the possibility of resurrecting the idea of establishing a technical college or senior technical high school in Darwin. It is useful here to look at a few figures and, if I may, I would like to use some notes.

Enrolment patterns in government schools over the last 3 years in the Northern Territory demonstrate that 20%-25% of Darwin students who complete year 10 do not proceed to year 11 and that two thirds of the students who enter year 11 do not proceed to year 12. To express this another way: 75% of students who have completed year 10 in Darwin schools over the last 3 years have not proceeded to year 12. The highest drop, incidentally, is between years 11 and 12. In Queensland, by contrast, in 1976 - and this is the only year for which I have figures - the comparable figure is a 60% dropout for years 10 to 11, which is roughly consistent with our own, but only 13% dropout between years 11 and 12. The reason is that there were 11,617 students enrolled in year 11 courses in ordinary secondary schools in Queensland in that year but there were also 11,317 enrolled in technical high schools. I think it gives a very graphic demonstration of the impact on school leaving of children between years 11 and 12 in school. We can no longer ignore figures like that.

The Darwin High School was originally designed as a technical high school. For some strange reason, a reason which is quite beyond my comprehension, there has been some reluctance among professionls and teachers to establish a technical high school in Darwin. I have asked the department to examine the proposal. I believe that, with the Chief Minister working on a complete new set of rules for apprenticeship training, it is high time that the education base started to look at the same thing. It is quite obvious that our highest unemployment rate comes from our lowest-trained children.

It is hoped that the emphasis of a technical high school or technical college would be sufficient to reduce indentureship by one year for instance. This is not a move to replace conventional education which leads to university courses. I do believe that, with the lack of qualified people who are oriented towards trade courses, we in the Northern Territory ought to address ourselves to this problem now. This is a very expensive proposal. Technical high schools are expensive because of the very sophisticated equipment required. To provide a technical high

of a 600 to 650 student capacity, we would probably have to look at between $5m and $6m. That is expensive but, of course, supporting unemployed youth is also very expensive.

559 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In reply to a question last session about jenny crabs, he advised that the fisheries department was undertaking a detailed review of barramundi fisheries and would include in that a study of the jenny crabs. Can be advise the House whether any recommendation has been made to him and what the results of the recommendations are likely to be regarding jenny crabs?

ANSWER

The barramundi report has been finalised. It is an internal departmental report and we are studying what policies the fisheries section must adopt for the future conservation of barramundi and other species. As far as the jenny crabs are concerned, I have no information with me this morning. I will try to find something out for the honourable member later in the day.

560 Mr VALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware that lecture notes emphasising various forms of sabotage of public facilities and public utilities are being distributed in the Darwin Community College. What does he propose to do about it?

ANSWER

In answering the honourable member's question, I find the matter far more serious than the "rubbish" interjected from the other side. I think it is time the public is informed of what is contained in those lecture notes to let them make up their own mind. I cannot pre-judge the issue, quite obviously, because it is a matter in which the police force is involved. For reasons contained in the Crimes Act, it is a matter in which the Commonwealth Police are also interested. It is far too broad an issue to canvass in question time. When I move the adjournment this afternoon the House and hopefully the press will hear exactly what the honourable member for Arnhem describes as "rubbish".

561 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can he yet supply an answer to question 201 on notice from 21 November. What is causing the delay in the signing of the leasing agreement between V.B. Perkins and Company and the Northern Territory Port Authority?

ANSWER

I cannot supply an answer at present.

562 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he inform me whether reports are true that the Commonwealth is negotiating the sale of the railway track between Darwin and Larrimah?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, I am not certain whether the reports are true or not. I have heard these reports myself. I have written to the federal Minister for Transport regarding Commonwealth Railways, notably the disgraceful condition of the railway yards at Salonika, further in towards town and

and through the wharf area. It is a situation that would not be permitted to occur in any other capital city in the world yet the Commonwealth Railways can get away with grass growing as high as you like, rubbish, weeds, old railway tracks and rolling stock in a delapidated state. I have sent large photographs on 2 occasions - one in about September or October last year and another in the last 2 weeks - to the federal Minister for Transport and asked him to do something about it. It is a measure of the deal on transport that the Northern Territory gets that this situation is allowed to persist by that department. I will undertake to find out whether the railway lines are being sold overseas and I will provide an answer to the honourable member later in these sittings.

563 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it planned to redirect some traffic through the extended Hudson Fysh Avenue and Gregory Street if that proposal is approved by the Town Planning Board during the building of the Bagot Road - Stuart Highway overpass?

ANSWER

No.

ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

564 Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to give more information to the honourable member for Stuart in reply to a question he asked yesterday. The information is that the person who made the request to inspect the statements for each minister in the register of pecuniary interests was Mr Peter Julian Hansen, an employee on the staff of the Leader of the Opposition. Mr Hansen's interest in inspecting the statements was in relation to business and land holdings of the ministers and the duties of each as a minister. Mr Hansen inspected all the statements with the exception of that submitted by the honourable Minister for Mines and Energy. The Clerk was not able to inform the minister, as required by the Assembly's resolution, before the time at which Mr Hansen wished to inspect the register.

565 Mr TUXWORTH: Yesterday the honourable member for Arnhem asked a question in relation to a specialist position in the Health Department relating to the inspection and monitoring of uranium mining in the Nabarlek area. Oversight of the uranium mining in the Alligators River region is the responsibility of the Environmental Health Division of the Northern Territory Department of Health. The selection of a well-qualified radiation physicist has been made and the offer awaits acceptance by the person concerned after approval by the Public Service Commissioner. Meanwhile, the Australian Radiation Laboratory is giving close support and liaison will continue with this organisation during the mining operation.

567 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is there any indication when the electricity reticulation in the Port Darwin area will be installed underground?

ANSWER

My understanding is that undergrounding work on McMinn station is just about complete. I also understand from the Electricity Commission that there is no justification in terms of load for the commission to underground power to the Darwin city area. The commission is currently embarking on a program of upgrading the overhead wiring to the Larrakeyah area. It is not economical to underground power to Larrakeyah. The commission anticipates completing this work in the Larrakeyah area this dry season.

568 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise whether the functions of Dundas House at Parap are to be changed and, if so, what other arrangements will be made to accommodate the children who are currently cared for there?

ANSWER

Dundas House could possibly be replaced by 2 family homes which would perform receiving-home functions. In addition to the family homes, the department's foster-care program is providing additional resources for the care of children. The capacity of the department to provide care for these children will remain quite adequate as there is considerable excess capacity in Dundas House. Within the new framework, children will be provided with family-type care which is far more appropriate to their development and emotional needs than the present institutional model.

569 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

I have asked questions on previous occasions about the future of the Darwin Hospital. There are many people who are still concerned about that project, and the fact that all existing emergency facilities presently at that hospital are to be removed. Will the minister consider giving his attention to the emergency service, including operating facilities at the Darwin Hospital.

ANSWER

As I have said on previous occasions, I am not unsympathetic to the proposal to maintain a facility in the Darwin Hospital area. The criterion for maintaining such a facility is to service as many people as possible, at the most economic cost, and to get the best benefit we can for the community. The Department of Health is of the opinion that the Darwin Hospital will be able to retain some minor services for acute occasions when emergency services are needed but, for the main part, the operating theatre and casualty sections will be transferred to the Casuarina Hospital to provide the best service possible to the people.

One other factor creeps into it and that is the Northern Territory is involved in a cost-sharing arrangement with the Commonwealth for maintaining hospitals. While they are paying 50% of the bills, we will have to put up a pretty good case in order to retain the present operation of the Darwin Hospital. It is unlikely, now that we are about to open Casuarina, that the Commonwealth would agree to pay the 50% of the cost of running 2 substantial operations. It is a matter of servicing the people in the

most economic way and providing the best service we can for the money.

570 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can the Minister yet advise on the future use of Carpentaria College?

ANSWER

This matter has a long and sorry history and, at this stage, I cannot advise the honourable member what use the college will be put to. We have arranged for the various mortgages and other matters to be transferred to the Northern Territory government. Until such time as we clear certain matters with the liquidator, the matter will remain unresolved. After we do clear these matters, it is proposed that an advertisement will be placed in the newspaper to seek expressions of interest in the premises. We already have some expressions but we feel the community should have the opportunity to submit proposals for the use and upgrading of the buildings. Until such time as we have settled all outstanding legal matters, I am afraid we cannot even go so far as to seek these expressions of interest in a formal way.

571 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Owing to the number of disadvantaged school students in isolated areas of the Northern Territory, will the minister give consideration to providing further assistance above that which is already available from the Commonwealth isolated school children and tertiary student allowances?

ANSWER

There are many disadvantaged and isolated children in the Northern Territory. The position in the past has been that, with the Commonwealth administering schools in the Northern Territory, we had no system of additional state grants available to children in isolated areas. The Commonwealth assistance to isolated children will continue after the transfer of the function. I assume the honourable member is talking about cash assistance rather than the broader issue of accommodation, tutorials etc. It will be a matter for the government, in the light of its budgetary strategies, to work out what level of additional assistance it can provide. This ranges from that provided by a state like Victoria which really has no isolation problems - it has some students in remoter areas, but it naturally has a fairly low level of additional assistance to isolated children - to a state like Queensland which is the most generous state by a long way. I have indicated publicly that the Northern Territory government will be providing additional financial assistance to isolated children. I will be arguing in Cabinet for as much as I can get because that is my ministerial responsibility. The level is yet to be determined.

572 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it true that, as a result of the establishment of the new Alice Springs railhead, the subsequent realignment of roads will cut through at least one Alice Springs business office? Will you assure the House that businesses in the Alice Springs area will not have their enterprises affected as is happening out at Berrimah?

ANSWER

As far as this relates to me, the town planning aspects have to be processed and I believe we make the rules at that time rather than decide to knock down businesses in advance.

573 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I will ask the same question of the Minister for Lands and Housing. Is it true that, as a result of the establishment of the new Alice Springs railhead, the subsequent realignment of roads will cut through at least one Alice Springs business office? Can the minister assure the House that businesses in the Alice Springs area will not have their enterprises affected as is happening out at Berrimah?

ANSWER

No proposals have yet been put to either myself or to the Town Planning Board to propose realignment. I cannot say that any business will be affected. Before any business is affected, that new scheme would have to go on display as an amendment to the Alice Springs Town Plan and there would be plenty of opportunity for people to object and to let their views be known.

As far as the second half of the question is concerned, that will depend on the type and extent of roadworks required. As we all appreciate, any roadworks cause some disruption, but this will be minimised as much as possible.

574 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Despite repeated requests from the northern farmers for information, there has been no reply. When will the public be told just what is grown at Berrimah farm and for what purpose?

ANSWER

The main agricultural activities at the Berrimah Experiemental Farm are associated with horticulture, plant introductions, plant quarantine, seed increase, the growing of pastures of hay and holding animals involved in intensive experiments. New plant introductions are evaluated for productivity under local conditions and seed of the promising ones is multiplied for larger scale testing. The stilo and bullrush millet growing adjacent to the Stuart Highway are part of this program. I am disappointed that the northern farmers have not been able to provide themselves with adequate information as to the activities of Berrimah Farm. I will be shortly holding a field day out there to which they will be specifically invited.

575 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the estimated cost of the proposed overpass to be constructed at the Bagot Road-Stuart Highway intersection and what other options will be considered to relieve traffic at that intersection?

ANSWER

I ask her to place the question on notice.

576 Mr OLIVER to CHIEF MINISTER

I understand some assistance is being made available for the formation of a mounted police unit in Darwin. Can he please tell me what that assistance is and could it be made available also to the Alice Springs district for a local mounted police unit?

ANSWER

Whilst other states of Australia still retain Cossacks - and South Australia is one of the leading protagonists of this form of law enforcement - it is not the intention of the Northern Territory government to establish a mounted police unit as the honourable member for Alice Springs appears to infer. However, the Commissioner of Police has indicated that the police department will make available assistance to members of the police force who are interested in establishing a type of mounted unit which could be used on ceremonial occasions. I think I detailed in a previous session the type of assistance. I think it will be in relation to equipment and accoutrements for the horses. It certainly will not involve paying the feed bills or buying the horses as far as I am aware. I believe this assistance could be made available in Alice Springs as much as it could be made available in Darwin. If there are policemen interested in Alice Springs, and presumably there are, I suggest that they speak to the assistant commissioner in charge of the southern division.

577 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will he make a statement to the House during these sittings detailing the measures to be taken by the Department of Primary Industry for the control of noxious weeds in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I believe that we can provide that information. If he placed his question on notice, that might be the best way for him to get that sort of information.

578 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Yesterday, a report prepared by the Hospital Advisory Board on the conditions of the furniture, fittings etc at the Darwin Hospital was tabled. In that report, a suggestion was made that consideration be given to leasing part of the Darwin Hospital complex for private purposes when the Casuarina complex is completed. Could he inform me if he has given consideration to the board's suggestion and is he able to given any details of such a proposal to the Assembly?

ANSWER

The idea of establishing a private hospital in the Northern Territory, particularly in Darwin, has been floating around for a long time and it has never really got off the ground. The transfer of the present operations at the Darwin Hospital to Casuarina has opened the door to the possibility of a section of the existing Darwin Hospital being leased or sold to an entrepreneur for use as a private hospital. I do not have any particular feelings for or against the introduction of a private hospital in Darwin. I think that private hospitals can play an important role in any community. I believe too that they must be conceived in the community in the sense that the private practitioners must support them and they must be run by competent operators. In the event of any such group of

entrepreneurs making an offer for the use of all or part of the Darwin Hospital for private hospital use, I am sure the government would look at the offer. So long as there was absolutely no cost involved to the government and there was some return in it, the offer would have to receive some consideration.

579 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

I refer to the dreaded Ludmilla-Fannie Bay connector road which has my support. Can he advise the House if provision will be made for bicycle tracks and, if so, are there any other bicycle tracks provided in Darwin or likely to be?

ANSWER

Perhaps we should change the name to the Nightcliff-Fannie Bay connector and that will leave me out of it. Yes, there is a provision for a bicycle track in the contract. I believe that other plans are in hand to provide bicycle tracks in other places. I do not know that all those plans are available but, certainly, in the next few months, those plans will be made public.

580 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has a contract been let for the painting of the interior and exterior of the Nhulunbuy Area School? If not, can he tell me the reason for the holdup in this most important work?

ANSWER

I am afraid I cannot provide a definitive answer. I will certainly seek the information. The cyclical maintenance program for bush schools right throughout his electorate, that of the honourable member for Arnhem and a number of other electorates leaves a lot to be desired. I know the honourable member was not talking about a bush school. It seems to me that the government had better undertake a complete examination of this sytem of maintenance under which the contract is primarily let to the private enterprise organisation to do its own assessment and follow-up work. It seems that the companies that are getting the contracts are spending far too much time assessing and not enough time doing. In other words, they visit a school in an outlying area, do an assessment of the requirements of that school and, instead of coming back a week later, they come back 3 months later and find other things that need doing. The work itself never seems to get done. It is a constant complaint. It seems to me that the system leaves a lot to be desired. In respect of both those issues, I hope to be able to advise the honourable member later.

581 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has he received a submission from the Environment Council of the Northern Territory for the funding of a study of the conservation priorities in the Reynolds River-Daly River area of the Northern Territory? If so, what action has he taken on the submission?

ANSWER

I hope to offer the Leader of the Opposition some information later today.

582 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise the amount of revenue received by the government from the Liquor Commission since the Liquor Act came into force earlier this year? Does the government intend increasing liquor licensing fees?

ANSWER

The Liquor Commission came into being on 12 February this year. At that stage and up until 31 April, it had collected about $1.2m in revenue. The issuing of fees has been discussed in this House before, particularly during the debate on the introduction of the Liquor Commission Bill and there is no doubt that the Northern Territory has the lowest liquor fees in Australia. In most cases, they are historic and, almost since the time they began, they have not been reviewed. The government has no plans to move imprudently into this area and we are waiting the first report of the Liquor Commission which will be tabled some time in August or September. I would hope that it has some recommendations as to what direction we should pursue, both as a government and as a society, so far as licence fees are concerned.

582A Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I understand that a proposal has been put forward to extend the Stuart Park Primary School sporting area. Will the additional area be used solely for school activities or will it become a public area under the control of the city council?

ANSWER

I have only preliminary information on this question. The land involved, on preliminary investigations, would seem to cover both a portion of land which is apparently within the school reserve and a portion of vacant crown land and, therefore, boundaries would have to be amended. If this oval goes ahead, I would propose that it vest with the city corporation - they have not been approached on the subject as yet - with a view to having the oval available for use by the school, both during and after normal school hours, and by the community after school hours. As this matter is in a very preliminary stage, I cannot really commit the city council as they have history of not liking to take over the maintenance of too much open public space where they find it is particularly uneconomical.

582B Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

The Health Department recently issued a statement expressing its concern about accidents occurring at the recently established roller- skating rink in Darwin. Could the minister advise whether the Department of Health had discussions with the management of that centre before issuing its statement or after in order to seek positive ways of reducing the accidents?

ANSWER

I am aware that a press report came from the department. I am not aware of its content and I am not aware whether there was any communication between the parties. I can say that there is absolutely no communication with myself about the matter, so I do not know the background of the press release.

583 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Because of the recent wet weather in Alice Springs, the edges of Undoolya Road have deteriorated to an unsafe condition. Following on from my question in the last sittings, can the minister please advise me when Undoolya Road will be upgraded?

ANSWER

The Alice Springs Council is responsible for the condition of the Undoolya Road and the works manager from the council has raised the matter with government officers in Alice Springs and investigations are still proceeding. The council has not included this road in the list of projects for which it is seeking financial assistance for 1979/80. However, should the council wish it to be included, I am sure their list can be amended to allow this project to proceed.

584 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When is it expected that the reconstruction of the Stuart Highway, which was recently commenced between the 12 and 13 mile, will be completed in that location?

ANSWER

There is just too much fine detail to be remembered. I am afraid that I cannot provide that information at the present time.

ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

585 Mr STEELE: The information I would like to provide is to the honourable member for Nightcliff in respect of her 2 questions outstanding. The first question was: what are the names of the committee working on the antibiotic content of foodstuffs and when will the report be prepared? The reply is that the committee is a working party within the Division of Primary Industry and it has examined all aspects of the control and quality of animal feed and antibiotic content is one of a wide range of aspects to be considered. Members of the committee are selected to represent the animal health and chemistry units in the division.

The second question related to jenny crabs and I have no further information for the honourable member other than that contained in my letter to her of 3 November 1978.

603 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer him to the NT News of Wednesday 28 March in which there was a report of a rape case in Darwin. Will he introduce legislation to ensure that the names of victims of sexual assault will not be published unless otherwise ordered by a court?

ANSWER

I understand that this particular case was investigated by the Department of Law at my request and an understanding had been reached between the court and the press that the name of the victim would not be published. For some reason of oversight or inadvertency on the part of the paper, the name did get into print. This had caused me to request the Policy Unit of the Department of Law to investigate whether the Northern Territory should amend the law as it presently stands to automatically prohibit the publication of the names of people involved in certain types of criminal proceedings. Such a course necessarily brings with it inherent risks in that it is in the nature of muzzling the press. We are told repeatedly that much of the fabric of our society depends upon the liberty of the press to publish what it believes to be in the interest of the public. Naturally, the government is viewing this whole question with a great deal of concern. We are looking for precedents that may have been established elsewhere and I should be able to report to this Assembly by September on the government's view as to whether it would be in the interests of the public to legislate to automatically preclude the publication of the names of persons, innocent victims though they may be, involved in certain types of criminal offences.

604 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Now that a number of areas within the Territory have been declared Aboriginal land under the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act, can he advise what action is being taken by the Department of Mines and Energy to process applications for mining interests which have not been dealt with for some years?

ANSWER

There are about 270 mining leases and applications relating to Aboriginal land that have not been dealt with and some go back as far as 1972. In order to clear the backlog and get a satisfactory working relationship, I have already had preliminary discussions on 2 occasions with the Northern Land Council in Darwin and I am looking forward to having discussions with the Central Land Council to get some ground rules for the handling of mining applications in that area. The progress we have made to date has been encouraging. There will be further discussions at a departmental level between officers of the Department of Mines and Energy and the land councillors themselves and we hope to have some formal ground rules by mid-July, that both parties find acceptable and which we can adopt to handle the outstanding claims.

605 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

The design of the Casuarina Hospital only provides for patient care in a totally enclosed and airconditioned environment. What arrangements are made for those patients who are not suited to this particular type of care?

ANSWER

The concept and design of the Casuarina Hospital was given to us by our well-meaning friends down south. It was taken from the design of a hospital in Canberra which, not unreasonably, would have a totally enclosed environment. To my knowledge, there is no provision in the hospital for people to recuperate in an outdoor environment but I will raise the matter with the department to see if I can provide the honourable member with some information that may satisfy her on this particular issue.

606 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Previous mention has been made in this House of the possibility of a new mining act. Can he give any indication of progress on this matter?

ANSWER

The compilation and formation of a new mining act has been going on now for about 18 months. Two drafts have been prepared for comment by various persons, industries and land councils. We are in the final stages of compiling the third or fourth draft and, if all goes well, we should have it ready for introduction in the September sittings.

607 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware that a number of cattle were taken recently to the wharf for live shipment and were found to be unbranded? They were subsequently taken to the 12-mile and branded there before being shipped.

ANSWER

No, I was not aware of that. It sounds like a serious matter. Perhaps the honourable gentleman would like to give me some more information.

608 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Block 8 appears to be continually under repair. Could he please inform me when this work is to be completed.

ANSWER

The question really belongs in the portfolio of my colleague the Minister for Transport and Works under whose department various governmental contracts are carried out. However, I do share his concern that the upgrading and completion of block 8 seems to be a never-ending job. Perhaps the honourable member would wish to redirect his question.

609 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the government yet made a decision about the future use of the Fannie Bay Gaol site and, if not, when does he anticipate a decision will be made?

ANSWER

The government has not taken an attitude on this matter to date. The last time the honourable member for Fannie Bay asked this question, I indicated that the government would be appreciative of any suggestions people had for a possible future use. If I recall rightly, my office received one representation on the matter. We would certainly be

interested in hearing other suggestions. However, at this stage, no decision has been taken and I cannot give a date as to when a decision will be taken. We do not regard the matter as one with any particular urgency.

610 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

I am aware that immigration is a responsibility of the federal government and I feel that the federal government realises that we are responsible to the people of the Northern Territory. Can he inform me whether consultation with the Commonwealth takes place in matters relating to the boat people who frequently enter my electorate?

ANSWER

It seems to me that the honourable member of Port Darwin is taking this matter in a very personal way but perhaps not as personally as the lady at Myilly Point who sighted a boat right under her window. It had not been sighted by anyone else up to then. We certainly do consult with the Commonwealth government and, in particular, with the Minister for Immigration, Mr McKellar, in relation to the refugees or boat people as they are called. The Northern Territory government has made a number of suggestions to the Commonwealth government in relation to what many people regard as a problem. We have suggested that, in view of the Australian government's indicated willingness to accept a reasonable quota of these people each year, the people who do come to Australia by boat should perhaps be regarded as queue jumpers. We have suggested that part of an island such as Christmas Island should be turned into a reception centre for boat people.

It now appears that the Indonesian government is going to move rather more quickly than the Australian government and has made available one of the islands in the Indonesian Archipelago for use as a reception centre. I understand that the Australian government was one of the governments at the recent meeting in Indonesia with the representatives of the People's Republic of Vietnam which was prepared to commit itself to a specific sum of money for the preparation of this island as a centre for the reception of refugees. It would seem to me that, although some of the suggestions that the Northern Territory government has made to the Commonwealth have not been accepted, others have been forced on the Commonwealth by pressure from outside. I can assure the people of the Northern Territory that this government will endeavour to see that the interests of the people of the Northern Territory are kept fairly and squarely in mind by the people who make the decisions in Canberra.

611 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Having regard to the fact that 2 young cyclists were killed on the Northern Territory roads over the last weekend and a further one was seriously injured, what steps does the minister propose to take to accelerate the construction of bicycle tracks in the Northern Territory towns?

ANSWER

I do not know whether the honourable member has been misinformed about certain happenings. Certainly, there were 2 deaths, but it would appear to me that the death in Alice Springs occurred because an 8-year-old was riding on the airport road. That would be a thing that I would not allow my child of 9 or 10 to do. That is not to say that cycle tracks should not be established in the suburban areas of Alice Springs and Darwin. I would be inclined to say that young children should not be riding along major highways.

612 Mr VALE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is he in a position to persuade the Katherine meatworks to provide a further killing facility for export cattle?

ANSWER

There has been much interest in this particular question. Under the Northern Territory Abattoirs and Slaughtering Act, it is only possible to compel abattoirs to kill for local consumption in a licensed abattoir area. Under the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation Act, section 11(1)(b), the AMLC can compel an export establishment to kill on consignment. However, there are doubts as to the effectiveness of that section, which I understand the Commonwealth government has under review. I made representations in October last year to Mr Sinclair, the Commonwealth minister, urging him to make any necessary amendments so that all export meatworks can be compelled by the AMLC to kill on consignment.

There seems to be some misconception regarding certain loans to Northmeat. These loans do not constitute equity in the company and do not entitle the holder of the loan to dictate to the management as to how it should conduct its business. In fact the loan in question is still in the name of the Commonwealth. I understand that the possibility of transfer to the Territory government has been complicated by the fact that the Commonwealth was in the process of renegotiating the terms and conditions of the loan with the principals of the company at 30 June 1978. I am hopeful that the question of the transfer of the loan will be resolved.

613 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What was the outcome of the inquiry into the high cost of liquid petroleum gas in Darwin?

ANSWER

The inquiry that was carried out by the Department of Mines and Energy was conducted in all centres in the Northern Territory and revealed that only in one place, Darwin, was there any indication of unreasonable charges for LPG. The government looked at the possible ways that the overcharging situation could be rectified - by controlling the distribution of the product or by encouraging competition to come into the Northern Territory and so create competition between the operators and the vendors of the products which would result in a more reasonable price being made available to the public.

In the first instance, the government does not particularly want to be involved in the production, marketing and retailing of LPG anywhere in the Northern Territory; it is something that is best left to private enterprise. So far as the second part of the exercise was concerned, we contacted several companies in different states and asked them whether they would be interested in setting up in the Northern Territory. Each company indicated that the market was too small or geographically difficult for them to service. We also looked at the possibility of controlling the price of the product in some form or another but we became bogged down in the legalities of the day. The matter has since been referred to both the Prices Justification Tribunal and another Commonwealth body that has jurisdiction in the matter. It would be impracticable for the Northern Territory government to control the price.

614 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he inform me what steps are being taken to improve power supply of the tropo-scatter system operating between Cox Peninsula, Gove and Groote Eylandt and which has caused many intermittent breakdowns since the cyclone?

ANSWER

I am aware of the difficulties that have been caused on that tropo-scatter system as a result of power failures. However, it is my understanding that the power supply is not a responsibility of the Northern Territory Electricity Commission or the Department of Transport and Works and is in fact the responsibility of Telecom. That being the case, I will take the matter up with Telecom to see if I can obtain the necessary information to satisfy the honourable member.

615 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will he confirm that the provision of housing for Timorese people, who have arrived in Darwin this year as a result of the agreement between the Australian and Indonesian governments, has placed some strain on the provision of public housing. Has the Northern Territory government approached the federal government with a request for additional housing funds to help overcome this problem?

ANSWER

I will seek to obtain some detailed information for the honourable member and provide it during these sittings.

616 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why have roadworks been undertaken at the 19-mile on the Stuart Highway opposite the pumping station on the McMinns Bore Road and will these improvements carry on down the McMinns Bore Road to the first dangerous right-angled bend?

ANSWER

I understand there is a very dangerous 'S' bend on the dirt road that comes out onto the Stuart Highway opposite McMinns Bore. The reason for the roadworks is to get rid of that 'S' bend and to make it a right-angled bend into the Stuart Highway.

617 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

My question relates to the working party that was set up to advise the minister on stockfeeds and particularly on the use of antibiotics. When is the working party expected to report to the minister?

ANSWER

I have asked the committee to report to me by the end of the year at the latest.

618 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

A study of foreshores was conducted some time ago. Has that foreshore-management study, together with its recommendations, gone before Cabinet as yet?

ANSWER

No, the foreshore-management study itself has not gone before Cabinet. The management study, which was talked about late last year, was completed and has been on display after consideration by the Town Planning Board earlier this year. However, there are further studies underway both as a result of that foreshore-management study and as a result of applications to the government from proposed developers of marinas in Darwin. The government is having a report prepared for Cabinet on this subject.

619 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it a fact that water rates are charged to owners of vacant allotments even where the water meter returns a reading of zero and, if so, why?

ANSWER

It is a bit like council rates. If you own a block in the middle of town, you pay the rates regardless because that amount of money goes towards servicing the whole of the urban area. I think that is the reason why we do charge the flat rate.

620 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he please inform me when the Sadadene High School will be officially opened?

ANSWER

I suppose that some would have it that it should be officially opened when it is fully equipped, I will give further information on that later. My understanding is that it will be some time in August.

621 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware that a 25-feet-wide harvester which costs about $80,000 was purchased for the Experimental Farm at Katherine. Is he aware that this type of machine is suitable only for harvesting sorghum in paddocks of about 1,000 acres rather than the 10-acre blocks at the Experimental Farm? In fact, they had to knock down fences to get it in. What has been the fate of this virtually useless machine?

ANSWER

The honourable gentleman is better informed than I am. Perhaps he would like to place his question on notice so that we can both obtain up-to-date information.

622 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does the Liquor Commission intend to reduce the number of liquor licences in the Northern Territory? How many new licences have been granted since the new law came into force?

ANSWER

I am not aware that the Liquor Commission has any immediate program to reduce the number of licences in the Northern Territory but people have expressed concern that there are far too many licences in the Northern Territory. In fact, the Northern Territory has more licensed premises

per head of population than any other state or territory in Australia. The commission will hopefully reflect on this particular issue when it brings down its first report later this year.

In relation to the second part of the question, I believe that, since the commission came into operation 3 or 4 months ago, there have been 2 new licences issued and 3 have lapsed in that period.

623 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that a wide cross-section of women's organisations, including the Country Women's Association, the Women's Electoral Lobby and the Darwin Women's Centre, support the establishment of an office of women's adviser to the Northern Territory government? If so, will the Chief Minister establish such an adviser within the Northern Territory Public Service?

ANSWER

I have heard reports in the press that a number of people are suggesting that the Northern Territory government should appoint a women's adviser. I have received a couple of letters from the Women's Electoral Lobby suggesting that I take that step and I have replied requesting that they support their suggestion by, for instance, a statement of the duties of the women's adviser as they see it. To date, there have been calls by this organisation - certainly I have not heard of any calls by the Country Women's Association for the appointment of a women's adviser - and the calls seem to be based mainly on the fact that such appointments have occurred elsewhere. There has been little suggestion on what the role or duties of a women's adviser would be in the Northern Territory.

In the federal house, one sees a great dearth of female members, especially in the House of Representatives where I cannot recall that there is one female member. When one looks at other state parliaments one finds that there are not very many women members of state legislatures yet we in the Northern Territory have the good fortune to have 4 women members. When you consider that we have a total of 19 members, almost one fifth of those members are women. One can hope, without wishing any disrespect to you or any other honourable member here, that the number of women members in this House will continue to grow. I would think that it could be taken that the need for a women's adviser by the Northern Territory government could be some indication that the 4 honourable members of this House are not bringing to the attention of the government matters which they believe the government should be bearing in mind in relation to women's affairs. Whilst I am not suggesting that the government would adopt the course on that view alone, I certainly would suggest that there have not been any approaches made to me by any of the honourable women members of this House concerning particular matters where the government might have a peculiar need for a women's adviser.

624 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it the policy of his party to restrict the consideration of issues to either a male or female category or does his party acknowledge that problems are not unique to one particular sex but are inseparable in present-day living and will he give due attention to that?

ANSWER

I do not know whether I should suggest to the honourable member for Nightcliff that she might possibly improve her thoughts and general

outlook by reading, with some considerable degree of care, the policies of the Northern Territory Country Liberal Party. I think that it would improve her mind to have a sound knowledge of the policies of this fine party of which I am the parliamentary leader. The Northern Territory Country Liberal Party draws no distinction, and neither do I, between what should be the rights of all citizens in the Northern Territory and I do not think there should be any distinctions made on the basis of sex, creed or colour. I hope that that situation would be well understood by all honourable members in this House.

625 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What is the position in relation to supplies and equipment at Sadadene High School?

ANSWER

The position was outlined in this place a couple of sittings ago. The lack of supplies for that high school stems from an original bid by the Department of Education which was substantially reduced, unilaterally, by the Federal Department of Finance. After an inadequate amount of money was allocated to the Department of Education for plant and equipment and stores for use throughout Northern Territory schools, the Department of Administrative Services got its oar into the act and we all know what delays occur when we have multiple federal departments trying to supply goods and equipment to the Northern Territory.

The community has been widely told through the press that the Sadadene High School has been poorly treated. I do not believe it has. A special establishment grant of $22,500 was made in respect of that school - $90 per child attending. Incidentally, another problem arose out of the high school being so popular and that resulted in far more enrolments than was originally envisaged. That figure of $90 per child is 4 times the average normally given for the establishment of such schools. In addition, there was a $10,000 library grant, despite the library cuts, which I think was a generous allocation.

The main problem at the moment is in the technical studies area in relation to benches and similar equipment. There was a delay in the provision of such things as carpets, bookshelves and other hardware. Consumables have been well looked after in the new high school and we envisage that, by the end of June, the final bits and pieces which are deficient at this stage will be provided to the Sadadene School.

626 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

A member of the Chief Minister's personal staff recently attended a well-attended public meeting at Darwin where the possible functions of a government women's adviser were widely discussed. Has the Chief Minister received a report of that meeting from his staff member and, if not, will he request a report without further delay?

ANSWER

It is very interesting that after days of languishing in this House without receiving any questions at all, one should suddenly become the centre of attention from 2 of the honourable female members opposite. I am aware that a member of my staff attended a meeting which was convened by the Women's Electoral Lobby at a school in the Casuarina area a few weeks ago. I understand that the attendance at that meeting was in the order of 40 and that representatives of various community groups attended.

My staff member furnished me with a report on the nature of the meeting and a couple of days later I received a letter from the Women's Electoral Lobby which I referred to earlier this morning. As a result, I sent a reply to the Women's Electoral Lobby asking them to outline what they saw as being the duties of a women's adviser. When I receive a reply to that, I will give the matter my further consideration.

627 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

The provision of health services to rural areas right throughout the Northern Territory is steadily improving. What measures is the government taking to see that the same improvements will occur with dental services?

ANSWER

I think that all honourable members and most of the public are well aware of the deficiencies that we have suffered for quite some time in the dental area - deficiencies that we have been working steadily to overcome.

The Department of Health has created several additional positions for dentists. Further to that, it intends to improve the program of occupational dental therapy for children in schools and is planning to extend this program to the Aboriginal community and has started a training program for Aboriginal workers in the dental therapy field. Further to this, in an effort to try to extend the wing of the dental unit into the countryside, it has placed an order for a mobile dental unit for some $170,000 which will be delivered later this year. It is anticipated that we will get another one next year.

While some aspects of the dental problems that we have experienced are being overcome, we are still having extreme difficulty with the recruitment of an orthodondist. We believe that we have an orthodondist that will take up his duties in the Northern Territory shortly, but the response to having orthodondists working on a salary for the department is very disappointing and we anticipate further delays in this area.

628 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the recommendations of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Expenditure that Northern Territory forestry operations should be placed on a care-and-maintenance basis, is it true that the Forestry Branch is proposing to establish a further plantation of a quarter of a million trees on Melville Island?

ANSWER

I gave a great deal of careful consideration last year to the report of the committee. Of course, that parliamentary committee viewed a particular year's program of the Northern Territory Forestry Branch and it came to the conclusion that the Northern Territory forestry program was not a particularly viable one. This occurred shortly before 1 July last year and it caused the Northern Territory's then executive a considerable degree of concern because it appeared the Northern Territory might lose valuable revenue which was being expended in the forestry area. Certainly, whilst Northern Territory forests may not be as productive as those in some other parts of Australia, there is no doubt that reasonably valuable resources are being established or preserved in some areas. Honourable members may have noticed that, in the administrative arrangements which followed self-government, the Northern Territory Forestry

Branch was placed under the administrative control of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission because forestry in the Northern Territory is largely a matter of preservation of our existing resources rather than the planting of exotic species.

There is also the social aspect of the work of the Forestry Branch in the Northern Territory. Forestry commissions in other states do a great deal of work for people in rural areas. It is the desire of the Northern Territory government to maintain as many job opportunities as it can in areas of the Northern Territory where these opportunities are not readily available. For that reason, the Northern Territory government has not taken any steps to close down Northern Territory forestry operations on Melville Island or at Murgenella where they principally occur. At Murgenella, there is no actual planting and the natural resources of cypress pine are preserved from fires and encouraged to regenerate. On Melville Island, there has been planting of exotic species, including certain pine varieties, and there has been experimental plantings of other varieties. In recent years, the best results have been obtained from the planting of pinus caribbea of which there have only been very small plantings, if any, on Melville Island since about 1 July last year.

The Northern Territory government, during the course of the second half of last year, commissioned a fact-finding inquiry into the Northern Territory Forestry Branch's previous operations by officers of the Queensland Forestry Commission and the government has had that report now for some time. I would be happy to make this report available to honourable members. In fact, I think that it could be tabled before the conclusion of this Assembly. As I recall it, the Queensland forestry officers were impressed with the rates of growth that had been experienced in pinus caribbea and compared them favourably with growth rates for that variety in Queensland. It may be that there is a future in the growth of pinus caribbea as an exotic species in the Northern Territory, not only for timber but also for seedlings. I understand, and some inquiries are being made into this, that there are considerable markets for seedlings of pinus caribbea in South-East Asia.

In any event, those are the broad outlines of the inquiries that I have made into the forestry area since it has come under my control and I am certainly happy to table this report in the Assembly. I believe that the forestry operations in rural areas should not be closed down because they provide work opportunities and, wherever possible, if it can be established that it is likely to be a viable operation, Northern Territory forestry operations should be expanded.

635 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it the intention of the government to complete the Dripstone Community Health Centre that was severely damaged by the cyclone whilst still under construction?

ANSWER

The Department of Health does have a program to continue with construction of that health centre. The original plan that was envisaged in the Commonwealth days was very substantial and, because the department and the government are now reviewing the role of health centres in the communities of the Northern Territory, it is not likely that the development of the Dripstone centre will be on the grand scale that the original plan proposed. It is hoped that this program will proceed within the next 12 months, but that will be a subject for budgetary consideration.

636 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Who ordered the police investigation into the material contained in lectures given by Mr John Tomlinson at the Darwin Community College?

ANSWER

Certain material was brought to my attention by officers of one or other of my departments. This material contained instructions on how one could undermine the existing order of the state as well as guidelines for the preparation of bombs and explosive devices. I therefore requested the Police Commissioner to carry out an investigation into the nature of the training that was being undertaken by students in a certain course at the Darwin Community College. It occurred to me that the college would have been happy to have supplied the investigating officers with full details of the course that it was providing to these people. The police investigation met with a complete lack of cooperation on the part of the administration of the Darwin Community College and, indeed, it is surprising that the honourable member for Arnhem was able to offer to the Minister for Education a complete set of lecture notes and transcripts when the administration of the Darwin Community College refused to supply this information to the officers of the Northern Territory Police Force who were investigating what they believed could well have been a breach of the law.

637 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Are there any definite plans for a small travelling rural library?

ANSWER

Once the Casuarina Library is opened, hopefully it will be able to provide this service to the rural area.

638 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise us of the progress on the realignment of the intersections of Trower Road, Bagot Road and Progress Drive, commonly known as "Crystal Corner".

ANSWER

The intersection that the honourable member refers to has been programmed in next year's budget. We tried to get it in this year, realising the

importance of the reconstruction of that intersection. We were unable to do that but we hope that we can get stuck into that particular work towards the end of this year.

639 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What initiatives has the government taken to retain a regular shipping service to Darwin from the eastern coast?

ANSWER

Members will remember the excitement that was caused when the federal government advised the Chief Minister late last year that they proposed to take the Darwin Trader off the east coast run to Darwin. At that time, the Chief Minister advised the federal Minister for Transport that that was not on. We have had consultants looking into alternative services on the east coast to Darwin run and they have reported back that, in the long term, they do not consider the Darwin Trader to be a viable proposition to service Darwin. I will be in a position to further advise the House as these negotiations proceed.

640 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I thank the minister for giving me a copy of the Chandler Report late yesterday afternoon. I had not received an invitation to study it earlier, despite his statement to the press yesterday morning that I had. Now that he has kindly made the report available to me, will he make copies available to the public?

ANSWER

I will consider the matter.

641 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for HEALTH

The Ilpapa Swamp in Alice Springs is a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other vectors which could lead to the spread of disease. What steps are being taken to reduce this risk?

ANSWER

I do not think it is any secret that the Ilpapa situation has been a very unsatisfactory one. My understanding is that the Department of Health has been agitating since about 1974 for the swamp to be cleaned up because of the disease that is likely to be spread by the mosquitoes breeding in that area. If certain diseases were to become established in the Centre, they could have a very adverse effect on the tourist industry. The Department of Health has long taken the view that the best way to solve the Ilpapa Swamp situation is to re-use the water either by treating it in a complete and satisfactory manner so that it can be used as town water, which is common practice in some parts of America, or by using it on crops. I do not think the department's stance has changed at all in the last 4 or 5 years and I feel that any persons - be they town planners, local government authorities or whatever - who can hasten the prospect of the water being re-used on a crop would be doing the community a very great service.

642 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has the government decided upon a new set of criteria to apply to organisations who wish to receive grants-in-aid? If so, has the government taken any steps to inform organisations, who have been in receipt of such

grants, of the new criteria?

ANSWER

The answer is yes. About 300 organisations have been informed of the new criteria or guidelines that are to apply for community grants-in-aid to various sporting organisations and community groups.

643 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the Housing Commission given any consideration to converting the Gove government hostel from single-room units to double-room units to cater for married couples and provide a better standard of accommodation for single people?

ANSWER

I am very much aware of the problem that the member for Nhulunbuy alludes to. I have been involved for some years trying to find some resolution to the rather unsatisfactory standard of accommodation that exists at the Gove hostel. At present, the hostel is being administered by the Department of Community Development. However, there is every possibility that the administration of the building will eventually go to the Housing Commission. I have asked the Housing Commission to do a study of the hostel with a view to looking at the feasibility of converting it to a more satisfactory standard of accommodation for single officers than the existing 10' x 9' rooms. These rooms are certainly not up to the standard of accommodation that anyone would expect single officers to reside in for any great length of time.

644 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to Saint Margaret Mary School at Parap. Since the cyclone, it has not been used as a school but as a creche and is now vacant. Has the minister's department given any consideration to its future use and has he had discussions with the owners of that school, the Catholic Church?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the problem that the honourable member for Fannie Bay suggests. There has been no contact with my office in this regard. I do not know if there has been any contact with the Department of Lands and Housing. I am not quite sure of the status of the land though I presume it is owned by the Catholic Church. If that is the case, it would be up to them to come forward with a proposal for assistance or surrender of the lease or for conversion to some other possible use. I will inquire into the matter.

645 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the minister aware of the current controversy surrounding the chemical substance 245T? Can the minister comment on this controversy?

ANSWER

The only information I can give the honourable member is that both the department and the government are watching the developments that occur with this particular product. We get a report every week from Canberra from the National Health and Medical Research Council. These people are our mentors in this particular matter and, if there are any developments, I will advise honourable members.

646 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Are sufficient loan funds available to meet the demand from people seeking loan funds through the Home Finance Trustee?

ANSWER

The answer to the question is yes. Quite recently, I approved a transfer of some funds from one particular loan scheme to the $20,000 housing loan scheme which is administered by the Housing Commission and which was formerly called the Home Finance Trustee Loan.

647 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I have asked this question on several other occasions and it is in regard to the ruins of the old museum and the naval headquarters. They have now been through 5 wet seasons. Would the minister give me some assurance that work will commence on the old museum site and the naval headquarters before the sixth wet season?

ANSWER

I can assure the honourable member that the work is programmed to commence on the old museum site and naval headquarters before the next wet season. A feasibility study has been carried out as to how the museum site may be developed and I should be making an announcement on that proposal shortly. Planning for the rebuilding of the old naval headquarters for use as offices for His Honour the Administrator are well advanced and provisions are being sought in the 1979/80 budget with the object of beginning work before the end of this dry season. I would point out, however, that the part of the structure which survived the cyclone has been given treatment to guard against further damage until re-building recommences.

648 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Does the Government Printing Office take on jobs outside official printing and, if so, for whom, at what price and when? Will this competition with private industry continue?

ANSWER

The government policy generally is not to compete with private enterprise. The Government Printing Office prints for the Territory government, the Commonwealth government and the Northern Territory statutory authorities. I doubt that there will be any departure from this policy.

649 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What are the reasons for the delay in the taking of oil from the Mereenie fields west of Alice Springs and will he be able to assure the House that the Mereenie project is economically viable?

ANSWER

In answer to the second part of the question, if I was an enterpreneur and I had 40 million barrels of oil at $15 a barrel sitting in the ground, I would think I was sitting on a very good thing. There is still a lot to be done before the Mereenie project becomes a reality. There is an agreement to be reached between the traditional owners and the Central Land Council and the company. The company would have to establish markets and

it would have to look at its refining responsibility. Before it goes into its refining responsibilities, there is no doubt that it will have to do further exploratory work and this too depends upon the agreement that must be reached between the land council, the traditional owners and the company. Developments will not happen overnight but there are certain factors that can proceed reasonably quickly.

The government has been keen to test run some of the crude oil through the powerhouse to see whether any damage would be incurred upon the engine so that, in the event of the product being satisfactory, the Electricity Commission will be able to plan our future so far as local oil reserves are concerned. Last week, there were plans to take oil from the well and it was anticipated by the company that the oil would be taken from within the casing. The technical people who manufacture the engines advised the government that the oil that is stored in the casing has been there for 7 years and suffers from a vertical density separation caused by being stored vertically and it would not really be satisfactory for testing purposes so far as the commission and the engine manufacturers are concerned.

We also worked out that, if we had a 7 inch casing and it was 6,000 feet deep, there would be 10,016 gallons stored in the casing. The oil that would be required by the commission and the test people would be from the reservoir itself so we would have to dispose of the oil that was in the casing because it is unsuitable for the tests. I told the company that it would not be satisfactory to us for the oil to be run over the ground or sprayed into the air; it should be tanked, taken away and disposed of satisfactorily. My idea of disposing of oil satisfactorily in a place like that would be to put it on the roads to keep the dust down but that is a matter for the company to decide. Providing that the company is able to get trucks in, the test should go ahead in the next week. Honourable members can be well assured that the environmental aspects of the whole operation will be watched carefully.

650 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Following on from my question regarding the Ilpapa Swamp, can he tell me what the current situation is relating to the proposed farm adjacent to the sewage ponds?

ANSWER

I think it was in the 1960s that it was first proposed that a sewage farm be established adjacent to the ponds in Alice Springs. In recent times, there has been some objection to those ponds under the town planning processes and, until further information is placed before the Town Planning Board, the project that we proposed to commence this year has come to a halt. We had proposed that a 50-hectare farm be established at the cost of some $700,000.

651 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware that there are navigation hazards in the inner Darwin Harbour such as submerged buoys and wrecks which have not yet been cleared. Could he advise us why they have not been cleared by the Port Authority? Is it because of a shortage of funds or some other reason?

ANSWER

I ask her to place that question on notice.

652 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise whatsteps his department proposes taking to upgrade the section of the Stuart Highway which passes through Heavitree Gap in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

The railway line reconstruction is scheduled to reach Alice Springs in November 1980. Plans are in progress to meet that contingency so that the reconstruction through Heavitree Gap will be on schedule when the line reaches Alice Springs.

653 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the government assumed responsibility for maintaining the section of Fred's Pass Road which provides the only means of access to the Elizabeth River Estate in the Hundred of Strangways? If the answer is yes, why has the road not been maintained to acceptable rural standards?

ANSWER

I am unable to provide that information. I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

654 Mr VALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

The minister previously announced the formation of a working party to advise the government on the establishment of a Northern Territory teaching service. Has that working party formally met and what are its tasks?

ANSWER

The working party to inquire into and report to the government on the establishment of a Northern Territory teaching service has met formally. I have asked the working party to examine the 4 available models of teaching services which operate in the region: Papua New Guinea; New South Wales, which is still trying to come up with a proposal for a commission after about 6 years; the ACT; and South Australia, the most modern. I have asked the working party to have particular regard to the teaching service system that applies in the state of South Australia and to look at all the other teaching services with a view to modifying or adapting the South Australian system to the Northern Territory context. The working party had proposed that it receive full-time release from duty for about 3 months. On advice, it was not really considered necessary by the government that full-time release be applicable in the circumstances. I have asked the director of the Northern Territory division - I cannot make any instructions or orders in relation to staff - that he provide to the working party a full-time research officer and assistant. I understand that the working party will meet for a 2-week session immediately following the school vacation. I would anticipate that, shortly after that 2-week meeting, it should be in a position to put out its initial thoughts to the teaching profession for reaction. I would expect the working party to come up with recommendations sufficient for the government to indicate its attitude in time for the conference of the Northern Territory Teachers Federation in August in order that we might proceed with legislation in the September and November sittings so that the Northern Territory Teaching Service may properly commence on 1 January 1980.

655 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The East Point Reserve Trustees have been asking for some considerable time that the former East Point golf course be incorporated into the reserve for the benefit of the public. Will the minister be making an announcement without further delay on the future use of that area of land to end speculation that it might revert to a full golf course or be used as a country club?

ANSWER

No, I am not prepared to put forward a government statement to end all speculation on the matter. The government is obviously interested in looking at all options that are put forward for any proposed use for this vacant crown land. There are a number of courses open for the use of the particular land in question. I think the government should keep its options open until such time as it has sufficient information to make a decision.

656 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has a decision been made to build a toilet block on Yirrkala beach front? If so, when will the project be completed.

ANSWER

I cannot actually say when it is to be completed, but I can advise that the project most certainly was not held up by the Department of Health. The honourable member mentioned this to me a couple of days ago and I gained the impression that the Department of Health had been responsible for preventing the project from proceeding. The advice I have received from the department is that they have been encouraging the development of this project for about 5 years. The honourable member will note on page 290 of the report on environmental conditions that they have accounted for themselves quite plainly in relation to this particular subject.

657 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of the increasing number of people who will work at Jabiru, what plans does the Health Department have to provide routine and emergency health care in that area?

ANSWER

The Department of Health has maintained a medical service at Jabiru since 1974. Although it was a limited one, it maintained continuity. The department plans to develop a health centre in the area when the uranium project gets underway. My understanding is that the department will go to tender before 30 June for a project that will involve a small out-patient and hospital holding unit where patients can be held before they are transferred to Darwin. This development will be completed by 30 September so that the welfare of all the people in the town is catered for.

658 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Would he confirm that there has been a delay of several months in the completion of the Casuarina library and can he explain the reasons for that?

ANSWER

I will seek the information and provide it later in the sittings.

660 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What stage has been reached in the plans for the proposed new museum and art gallery?

ANSWER

At the moment, there are 4 persons who are vying in a competition for the design of the museum. The competition date closes on 30 June and, after 30 June, a judging panel consisting of myself, the Minister for Transport and Works and the Director of the Museums and Art Gallery will select one of those persons to get on with the job.

661 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

I refer to the report "A Review of the Northern Territory Barramundi Fishery" prepared by Darrel Grey and Roland Griffin. Will the minister table the report in the House so that it can be debated and the government's views may be made public?

ANSWER

I will table the report as soon as I can.

662 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will the health care available at the township of Jabiru be available to other people who live in the area and, if so, on what terms?

ANSWER

Yesterday, I indicated that Jabiru would have a health unit consisting of an outpatients consultation unit and a small holding hospital. Some 15 beds will be available to the community of Jabiru. Whilst this facility may be built at Jabiru ostensibly for the uranium mining operation, it is reasonable to say that, consistent with the department's policies right throughout the Territory, all Health Department facilities are available to all the people of the Northern Territory at any time on the basis of need. The Jabiru health facility will be available to everybody on the same basis as health facilities are available to members of the community throughout the Northern Territory.

663 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will the minister table today his department's survey on environmental conditions on Aboriginal communities?

ANSWER

The short answer is no. Our policy is that all reports coming from respective departments and authorities go before Cabinet before they are presented to the House.

664 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will he confirm that part of the area of land currently occupied by railway houses at Parap is to be made available for private development? Will he advise what will happen to those people who are currently living in houses on that land? Will they be re-allocated a house in that area if they so desire?

ANSWER

The government does propose to release a portion of land in the Parap area currently occupied by railway houses and still covered by a railway reserve. Two private developments will be medium density units. Other developments in the area will include the construction of Housing Commission medium density units and a large number of the existing houses will be upgraded and made cyclone proof. In regard to the tenants in the area, assurances have been given by both myself and the Housing Commission to the Australian National Railways that disruption to people's lives and accommodation will be kept to an absolute minimum. As far as it is humanly possible, they will be guaranteed accommodation in the area. In some cases, it will be necessary to re-locate people for a period of time. They will be offered alternative accommodation until their houses are upgraded or these medium density units are constructed. In all cases, we will seek to cooperate with the tenants. Even though many of these persons are occupying accommodation which, under the terms of the Housing Commission allocation system, they would not strictly be entitled to, we have guaranteed that they will continue in that type of accommodation. We are doing everything in our power to make life peaceful for them.

665 Mr VALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer to this week's edition of the Darwin Star which would tend to indicate that the honourable member for Victoria River, like the honourable member for Elsey, gained the impression that it was the government's policy to centralise rural education in Darwin. If the honourable member for Elsey had his way all rural education would be centred in Katherine. Could the minister clarify the government's policy in this regard?

Mr DOOLAN: A point of order, Mr Speaker! I claim to have been misrepresented. I did in fact say this and cancelled it very smartly afterwards. I went to some length to cancel it. It was not actually written by me and I did go to some pains to suppress the article which I had originally intended to publish. I said that school accommodation facilities were to be centralised but I made no mention of a rural college. I retracted what I said anyway.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

ANSWER

It would probably be a more appropriate vehicle if the honourable member for Victoria River used the misrepresentation provision of Standing Orders. In fairness to the honourable member for Victoria River, he did approach me some time yesterday saying that the story had apparently been prepared by officers of the Leader of the Opposition's staff and that he completely denied the story. He agreed to suppress the story and I understand he did everything he possibly could to suppress it. I did the same with the replies which were prepared. I do not hold the honourable member for Victoria River at all responsible for the article, but rather the Star for capitalising on what they saw as a good government-knocking exercise.

The government's policy is to provide a better deal in education for rural Territorians. The government wants to offer to all rural people, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, a better deal than they have had in the past. It is essential that, when government seeks to carry out such a policy, it should seek the views of people in the rural areas. In the adjournment debate I floated 2 options. I will repeat those options. Firstly, if the government

was to erect a secondary or late primary residential facility in Katherine, there would be a substantial benefit to educational facilities in the Katherine area. It would provide greater resources for rural children and children generally in Katherine because the increase in teacher numbers would result in an increased range of electives available to them, particularly in year 12. I also pointed out, for the consideration of rural people, the benefits to be obtained by having a residential facility in the larger centres. What I was asking the people to do was to let the government know which one of these 2 options they wanted the government to pursue.

Mr Speaker, if the rural residential facility was to come under government policy in response to a community wish and was to be set up in Katherine, you, Sir, would be one of the first to approach the government about excursions to the major cities for the purpose of that cultural development and quite rightly so. What the government has to look at, in addition to the needs and requirements and wishes of rural people, is supplying the best service available. I think that rural people have to consider, if indeed they want that type of residential facility, where they want it and for what reason. All the government is trying to do is to float the options to the people and then let them tell us which one of those options they want.

666 Mr BALLANTYNE to CHIEF MINISTER

Last year the Chief Minister indicated that he will be looking at reviewing the licensing provisions under the Firearms Act. Can the Chief Minister tell me when new legislation will be introduced into this Assembly as this particular act has caused many problems?

ANSWER

I recall signing a Cabinet submission on the review of the Firearms Act in the last couple of weeks. There is a Cabinet meeting this Friday and I think it will probably be considered at that meeting. If it is accepted, I imagine the drafting instructions will be prepared and, presumably, a bill will be made ready for the September sittings of this House.

I would imagine that there has been consultation between the Police Commissioner and firearms groups on the proposals up to this stage. I met with interested groups early last year to discuss the matter with them. In any event, I will ensure that there is consultation with those organised groups before the legislation is drafted in its final form. Obviously, when it is introduced in September, there will be a period of 2 or 3 months until the November sittings for it to be considered and amendments to come forward.

667 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Have the terms of the Commonwealth-Northern Territory housing agreement been decided upon as yet?

ANSWER

The final draft of a Commonwealth-Northern Territory housing agreement has been prepared and is about to be posted to the Commonwealth government for their perusal and, presumably, acceptance. I would hope that the agreement is signed before 1 July this year.

668 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the encouraging remarks that were made regarding the Darwin Trader problem yesterday, will the minister be seeking confirmation of the federal Minister for Transport's assurance that the vessel will not be taker off the run until a suitable alternative arrives? I understand that he will have the opportunity to meet with the federal minister, Mr Nixon, tonight.

ANSWER

It is true that Peter Nixon will be in Darwin tonight and I will be talking to him. It is interesting that Mr Nixon chooses to use the VIP jet in preference to the iniquitious air travel facilities that we have to use most of the time. It is also interesting to note that he has not chosen to use the Darwin Trader as a mode of travel. Perhaps the mechanical diff-iculties of getting to Darwin might have deterred him. I certainly will be taking the matter up with the minister when he arrives.

669 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

There have been problems in the past with regard to single teacher accommodation. Is the minister going to review the whole aspect of single and married teacher accommodation for the Territory after 1 July?

ANSWER

I am sure that members will recall that, when we were discussing in the House the prospect of building a new high school in Nhulunbuy, I made the comment that there is little point in spending several millions of dollars on building a high school if we cannot get teachers to go there. The same still applies. I have recently discussed this matter with the Chief Minister and I have written to the Public Service Commissioner with a view to discussing with him the problems of the government's future housing policy in remote areas. I have also written to the Minister for Lands and Housing asking for discussions to take place with the Housing Commission so that the government can work towards the formulation of a policy which will provide adequate and appropriate housing for single officers, particularly those in the professional levels.

670 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Could he inform the House on the future of Carpentaria College?

ANSWER

That matter is not in the province of the Minister for Education at the moment. The government as a whole is examining the future of Carpentaria College site and it lies more within the province of the Minister for Lands and Housing.

671 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

After the 1,245 head of buffalo were shot and left to rot, what plans do wildlife officers have to shoot out any more buffaloes?

ANSWERS

This questions seems to have arisen out of the debate that took place yesterday afternoon. As far as I am aware, there are no plans by the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission officers to shoot any further

buffalo or feral animals. I have issued a direction that such plans be brought to my attention in future and that efforts be made to ensure that the carcases of the feral animals concerned be disposed of on the best economic basis possible.

672 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the government made a decision on the future of Murgenella?

ANSWER

I am surprised that I should receive such a question from the honourable member for Arnhem. I was not aware that the government was required to make a decision on the future of Murgenella. It is a Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission base for a ranger and it is also the base of a forestry plantation. I use that term loosely because the forestry unit does not plant trees there; it carries out work, builds firebreaks and so on to ensure that there is natural regeneration of the quite substantial stands of natural cypress that exist in the Murgenella area. This has continued on a care-and-maintenance basis over the past couple of years. The government employs 3 of the traditional owners of the land to work with the forestry unit. Incidentally, I understand that these 3 traditional owners gave their approval for the shooting of the buffalo that we were talking about yesterday afternoon. As far as I am concerned, the future of Murgenella is not in doubt. If any organisation such as the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service wants to close it down, they have not told the Northern Territory government of their intention to do so. If they try to do that, they will find that there will be a certain amount of resistance on the part of the NT government.

673 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he confirm that an auction of residential land will be held in Alice Springs late in June this year?

ANSWER

I have some good news and bad news in response to that particular question. The bad news is that the sale of land in Alice Springs for residential purposes will not take place in June but in July. The good news is that it will not be an auction; it will be the first instance of a new government policy of over-the-counter sales. There was to be an auction of land in Alice Springs in June. However, a recent decision was taken to approve measures designed to release land over the counter as distinct from auction. The preparation of proceedings has necessitated a delay of one month before we will be able to release that land.

674 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What is to be the future of Carpentaria College?

ANSWER

I am not sure if the honourable member was in the House earlier in these sittings when I answered the same question from the honourable member for Nightcliff. The answer was that there were still some matters outstanding which have to be settled between the liquidator and the Northern Territory government. These matters are in the process of being submitted to Cabinet for a decision. Until such time as those matters are decided, the land and buildings cannot be released for any other purpose. However, after certain decisions are made, the government proposes to invite

expressions of interest from various parties as to what the future use of Carpentaria College should be.

675 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

When does the department propose to allow more autonomy for the running of health services in Tennant Creek, Katherine and Alice Springs?

ANSWER

I should explain that the Department of Health started a program of devolving power in the remoter areas some 4 or 5 years ago by instigating a system of regions and subregions for the administration of its affairs. The regions are essentially Darwin, Alice Springs and Gove. Within those regions, the department has subregions based around Katherine and Tennant Creek. As of 1 July this year, the department will be giving more autonomy to Katherine and Tennant Creek and even to some of the smaller areas. The department has been conscious of the difficulties that were caused by long lines of communication and with people having to go back to Alice or Darwin to get an authority from head office to do something that was necessary at the time. If we are to improve health services, that sort of system has to change and we hope the change will start to devolve in about a month's time.

The sort of services that are likely to receive more autonomy include the control over the aerial medical units in Alice and Darwin which, when they spread to Tennant Creek and Katherine, will be most effective for the people in those regions. The regions are becoming more autonomous by being involved in the recruitment of staff in their respective areas, particularly at the interviewing stage. Previously, someone was sent from head office to another state to conduct the interviews or someone from Canberra did it on an agency basis. More power will be given to remote areas and this will be to the benefit of all the people in the Northern Territory.

676 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he confirm that, because the outfall from the sewage treatment plant at Ludmilla is shorter than originally planned, it is exposed at low tide and effluent can be seen floating towards the sea? What action will the department take to rectify this situation?

ANSWER

I am unable to confirm that. I understand that, during excessive high tides, some flooding of the manholes has taken place and caused the odour problem. The department is taking steps to rectify this.

677 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the minister in a position to give the House details of funding that has been approved to various organisations of the Territory's International Year of the Child program.

ANSWER

To date, I have approved varying amounts totalling over $22,000 for a multitude of programs. The individual details are: $1,300 to the Corporation of the City of Darwin for a "fun in the parks" program; $6,000 to the Aboriginal Women's Resource Centre of the Uniting Church; $4,000 to the Arts Council of Australia to extend Pipi Storm Circus and

to allow children in remote areas to have cultural experience involving drama, music and mime; $5,000 to Brown's Mart to extend the kids' convoy scheme; $2,621 to the School Library Association for a story-teller, Patricia Scott, to travel throughout the Territory and to hold workshops in the various centres; and $3,450 for equipment costs to establish pilot programs for Darwin family centres on child care.

678 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When does he expect the new Planning Act, which was passed at the last sittings, to come into operation?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, I do not have a specific date. I am anxious to have the new Planning Act commenced as soon as possible and I understand that there are a range of activities which have to be undertaken and procedures to be set up by the department before the act can commence operation. Some of those are associated with the Lands Acquisition Act because the Planning Act requires referral on some matters to the Lands Acquisition Act. The Lands Acquisition Act, having been approved but not commenced as yet, requires persons to be appointed to boards and procedures to be set up; the delay is unfortunate. However, I cannot give any indication, at this stage, as to how long the delay will be.

679 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Following on from the minister's recent announcement, the government has provided finance to enable St John Ambulance to provide ambulance services in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. Is it the government's intention to extend similar assistance to other major centres? If so, to which major centres and when are those services likely to commence?

ANSWER

The government has a very keen desire to see St John take over the ambulance services throughout the Northern Territory. The previous system that has operated in hospitals often meant that the gardener, the wardsman or whoever happened to be available at the time drove the ambulance. The department has been conscious of the deficiency and they have been keen to see St John Ambulance play a more positive role. A contribution has been made to the St John Ambulance Brigade to enable it to set up in Tennant Creek and Alice and I believe that funds have been transferred to the organisation. Premises in Tennant Creek are due to be opened at any time. In Alice Springs, new premises are programmed for construction in the next 12 months.

We are also very keen to see the St John organisation spread its wings to Katherine. I have received several representations over the last 6 months about the need in Katherine for an ambulance service. The people in the community were disappointed when the hospital was not able to station an ambulance at football matches, baseball games, rodeos and whatever. I appreciate the problem, having suffered the same sort of inconvenience in Tennant over the years. The reality is that St John, in order to succeed in Katherine, needs the wholehearted support of the community. They hope to set up in Katherine by the beginning of next year and envisage having a St John organisation that will function with the ambulances already in the area. This way, they can be placed anywhere in the community as the need arises.

Plans are also in the pipeline for St John to take over the control of ambulance services in the uranium province once the demand increases in the next 12 months. Provided funds are available and St John have the physical capacity to be organised, some St John ambulance people should be operating there within 9 to 12 months.

680 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

I refer to a statement he made on 5 January regarding health services in the Northern Territory. In that statement, he announced that the government will be investigating their proposal to strengthen alcoholism services in the Northern Territory. Will he advise on the progress of those investigations to date?

ANSWER

I am well aware of the statement made on 5 January but I am not quite sure what services the honourable member refers to. The Department of Health and the Department of Community Development have an involvement in this field and are both very conscious of the deficiencies in the services relating to alcoholism. I believe there is a role in this particular field for the Education Department because one of the prime methods of overcoming alcoholism is by way of education at an early age.

The Department of Health is primarily concerned with the treatment of identified alcoholics and works in tandem with the Department of Community Development to provide complementary services such as support to Alcoholics Anonymous and other drug dependence organisations. The government will assist self-help organisations in the community. If the honourable member would like to put on paper exactly what services he is concerned about, I will do my best to see that he gets the information.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

681 Mr PERRON: The honourable member for Fannie Bay asked whether I could confirm that the provision for housing of Timorese people who arrived in Darwin this year as a result of the agreement between the Australian and Indonesian governments has placed some strain on the provision of public housing. She further asked if the Northern Territory government has approached the federal government with a view to alleviating the problem. Initially, I directed any inquiries to the Department of Immigration to establish exactly its role in this situation. I am informed that all Timorese immigrants are subjected to the same conditions as any immigrant but, since all those coming to Darwin have been sponsored by family or friends, none have been required to spend any time in migrant villages before coming to Darwin. Where families are intending to migrate, they are required to make a declaration to the effect that they have arranged accommodation in Australia and, in most cases, new migrants have lodged with their sponsors or in housing found by their sponsors while they await their turn on the housing list.

I can assure the honourable member that, while Timorese people are accepted as approved migrants and therefore may add their names to the Housing Commission's housing list, their presence is not causing undue extensions of waiting time or any other undesirable effects on other applicants on the Housing Commission's list. Since the Housing Commission treats Timorese applicants in the same way as other applicants, it is impossible to extract from the housing list the exact numbers of Timorese people presently waiting their turn for housing. The Housing Commission informs me that some Timorese people are in fairly cramped conditions whilst waiting for accommodation from the Housing Commission. They will be housed in the

normal fashion when they reach the top of the Housing Commission list.

I do not see that there is a specific problem to be addressed by the Northern Territory government. If a problem does exist, and I am just reading between the lines here, it may be that certain persons are sponsoring Timorese immigrants and undertaking to accommodate them when, in fact, they do not have sufficient accommodation and perhaps they are living in cramped conditions. The honourable member could perhaps take up with the Immigration Department whether its checks are adequate to confirm that sponsors can provide suitable accommodation. The question then arises whether the primary point is to allow these people to immigrate or fuss over whether or not they will live in cramped conditions. I believe that they are probably very happy to come out here and face the difficulty of getting their own accommodation.

682 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

When is it likely that some assistance will be given to people who were insured with Northumberland Insurance Company? He is well aware that legislation was passed in November 1974 to offer some relief but it was never assented to.

ANSWER

I apologise for not having seen this matter through. I referred it to the Department of Law some months ago and was awaiting a Cabinet submission. Now that she has reminded me of it, I realise that I have not received a Cabinet submission. I had better put some salt on someone's tail. I will try to obtain some sort of informal answer before too much longer.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

683 Mr DONDAS: The honourable member for Fannie Bay asked whether I could confirm that there have been delays in the construction of the Casuarina Library. I have been informed that the competion date for the Casuarina Library has been set back some 4 to 5 months. There are some compelling reasons for this. The original design brief, let by the previous federal Department of Construction, was inadequate in so far as it did not suit the requirements of the library services. I speak of such matters as ceiling design lighting, lack of flexibility within the area and the fact that the original design required an extremely high maintenance cost per year; for example, the original brief required exterior surfaces to be painted. As these problems became apparent, the brief was re-documented in some aspects to provide more flexibility within the library building and create a better facility for the general public. The current completion date of the building is programmed for the end of November this year.

690 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

As a result of changes in the Commonwealth-state hospital cost-sharing agreement announced in the mini-budget by the federal Treasurer, Mr Howard, the various states will receive $200m less towards hospital costs in 1979/80. Can he inform the Assembly what is the Northern Territory share of this $200m loss?

ANSWER

I would like to make it clear from the outset that the financial arrangements between the Commonwealth and the states have yet to be finalised and, to this end, there is a meeting in Sydney next week between the federal and state ministers for health to cover the final implications of the Treasurer's announcement last week.

From my understanding of the situation, the Treasurer has made certain comments about cost sharing and cuts in expenditure. To date, we have not received from the Commonwealth the detailed analysis of where these particula cost sheddings are to come from. The honourable member is very keen to play up the prospect that the Northern Territory will make serious cost cuts in the health field in the next few years as a result of the Treasurer's statement. I find this to be a particularly interesting line of attack because we are now in the sixth month of having inherited from the Commonwealth a health service that they have administered for about 25 years. I do not think we have had sufficient time to muck it up, so we can only assume that the health service - until we have finally finished reorganising it in 2 or 3 years' time - is in pretty good shape so far as the Commonwealth is concerned. I am sure honourable members would accept the premiss that the Commonwealth would not give us anything that was of a substandard nature. The Commonwealth has handed to us infrastructures such as the Casuarina Hospital which will require additional funds from the Northern Territory's point of view to open and maintain. I find it very hard to accept the premiss that we will have cost cuts this year because, if we do, we would not be able to open Casuarina. I just do not think that the Commonwealth would put forward such a proposal. It would be preposterous.

691 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he tell me why the public only know of the killings of feral animals after they have been killed by wildlife officers and not before.

ANSWER

I imagine that the public is made aware of the killing of some feral animals before they are slaughtered. The Department of Lands and Housing calls tenders for the shooting of feral animals and obviously people do have the opportunity to profit in that way. In relation to the shooting of buffalo in the Murgenella area recently, it was the middle of the wet season and because the buffalo were in great numbers and were doing a great deal of damage to the environment in that area, it was considered necessary to conduct a shoot out at that particular time. I do not think that the government could give any undertaking that the shooting of feral animals would be brought to the notice of the public before or after the event in any particular case.

692 Mrs D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When was the last year that the Northern Territory road rules were published and when is it next proposed to publish a comprehensive set of

Northern Territory road rules?

ANSWER

I will seek the information for the honourable member.

693 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will federal restrictions on health spending reduce Northern Territory government programs in rural areas?

ANSWER

The short answer is no. The Northern Territory government is particularly committed to maintaining the existing rural health programs and, in some cases, extending them. One of the initiatives that we have been able to take since assuming the responsibility for health has been to create new positions in the Aboriginal health worker training program. Indeed, there has been a new training unit for this particular program opened in Darwin this year. I believe that these programs and the ultimate improvement of environmental health in remote areas is an important initiative that the Northern Territory is not only bound to maintain but also to expand. I cannot see any cuts coming in this area at all.

694 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In the mini-budget last Thursday, the federal Treasurer announced that the bed cost per day for patients with the doctor of their choice will increase from $40 to $50. When will the Northern Territory hospitals start charging the patients of private doctors this extra $10 per day?

ANSWER

I stand to be corrected on this, but I understood that the federal government proposed to introduce these charges on 1 September. The Northern Territory would not be doing anything before then.

695 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Could he inform the House of the likely release date of the residential blocks in Malak and Leanyer subdivisions.

ANSWER

Stage 1 of Malak has been released progressively since 1974 and stage 2 of Malak is currently turning blocks off. The last of a total of 409 lots in stage 2 will be ready for release by December 1980. As far as Leanyer subdivision is concerned, the number of lots to be turned off is still the subject of negotiation and consultation with private developers who will be invited to participate in the subdivision of Leanyer. We expect that there will be between 820 and 1000 lots turned off in Leanyer. Those lots should become available by about July 1982.

696 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In view of the federal government's decision to abolish the homes savings grant on houses valued at more than $40,000, what steps is the Territory government proposing to take to ensure that people buying their first house in the Territory are not disadvantaged in relation to other Australian first-house buyers?

ANSWER

The honourable member should be aware that Northern Territory persons seeking to purchase their first home in the Territory are already advantaged to some degree by the fact that we do have in the Northern Territory a Home Finance Trustee loan. It is no longer called the Home Finance Trustee loan but it is a loan administered by the Housing Commission and is not normally available to Australians other than those in the ACT. As well as that, through this government's initiative, we have a policy whereby stamp duty is not payable on the first home purchased in the Northern Territory by any member and I understand from Treasury sources that a great deal of the homes sold in the Northern Territory are first-home purchases and that is very good to see. Therefore, that concession is being very much used in the Northern Territory.

Since the announcement in the mini-budget that there will be ceilings placed on the amount of the home-savings grant by the federal government, representation has been made to the federal government seeking some exemptions from this ceiling as far as the Northern Territory is concerned on the basis of the increased cost of housing and land in the Northern Territory. However, at this stage, I would be unable to indicate the likely outcome of that representation.

697 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the district allowance designed to cushion public servants from the higher costs of services and goods? If this is so, how do people like pensioners and others on fixed incomes cope with the higher cost of living in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The district allowance is a taxable allowance granted to public servants in the Northern Territory and it is intended to offset the high costs of living in the Territory. It is clearly recognised by this government that pensioners on fixed incomes are at a disadvantage. We are at present investigating various incentives which could be offered to elderly people to encourage them to remain permanently in the Northern Territory. As part of this effort, we introduced a number of pension concessions earlier this year. Those pensioners receiving a full social security, aged, invalid or widow's pension, or a full-supporting parents benefit, or a service pension are now entitled to the following concessions: $10 rebate on quarterly electricity accounts; $70 rebate on motor-vehicle registrations and third-party premium insurance costs; 50% rebate on council rates; 50% rebate on basic water and sewerage rates. The needs of pensioners and particularly the aged have a high priority with this government. We intend to offer every support we can to help relieve the pressures on such people and to encourage them to stay. Further extensions to the pensioner concession scheme are being explored.

698 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

This question concerns the future of Dhupuma College. Can the minister inform me what steps or decisiions have been taken to retain the college at Gove?

ANSWER

The government has taken no decision to close Dhupuma. It is the government's intention to continue with it. It is necessary to come to grips with the problem of the tremendously high per capita cost which pertains to students using it as a transitional school in the higher primary through

to junior secondary level. The per capita cost at the moment runs out at something like $24,000 per year per student. Quite obviously, any government would have to address itself to such a problem. It would seem that the most efficient way to bring down that per capita cost would be to make better use of the facility rather than seek to close it.

Recently, I arranged for the principal of Ngukurr school - who, incidentally, is the only fullblood Aboriginal principal in the Northern Territory - together with the president of the council and a mother selected by the council, to go to Dhupuma to familiarise themselves with the layout of the place and its uses. The purpose of their visit was to see what role Dhupuma College could have in the training of young adults by way of short courses in trade training and so on. The report I received from the principal of Ngukurr School was tremendously encouraging.

What we will be doing is to arrange for similar visits from a wide range of Aboriginal communities around Arnhem Land and the islands to the north that associate themselves with Dhupuma so that the communities themselves are aware of the facilities available for relevant training of Aboriginal people at Dhupuma College. It is a very well equipped place, particularly in the technical studies area. It would seem to me that six 10-week courses should be offered to Aboriginal people at Dhupuma to equip them to take work within the councils themselves and remove the need to bring Europeans in to do the work. If the move that the government has made towards community government is to have any meaning at all, it must be backed up with training facilities for Aboriginal people. I know of a couple of communities where positions for typists and routine bookkeepers are available but there is no expertise among the people. I think that this is a further use to which we can put Dhupuma. The government is looking at ways not only to keep it open, but to enhance its value to the community.

699 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did he see an article in yesterday's Northern Territory News where the federal Minister for Transport, Mr Nixon, was quoted as saying that there was never any question of allocating extra funds to the South Australian government for the sealing of the South road? Will the minister take steps to remind the federal Minister for Transport that indeed Mr Sinclair did make such a promise to the people of Alice Springs in 1977? Will he take steps to ensure that the current Minister for Transport honours that promise given by Mr Sinclair?

ANSWER

I have had his arm up his back as far as it will go but it does not seem to have done the trick. I do understand, although it has not been confirmed, that the South Australian Minister for Transport will allocate $4.3m for the Stuart Highway reconstruction in this financial year. The funding comes in the form of an untied grant and it is not up to the federal authorities to dictate to the states as to where that money will be spent. I believe it is called cooperative federalism.

700 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the ABC ever conducted a survey of outback Territorians to find out whether programs such as national and local news and weather forecasts are able to be picked up by people away from the main centres of population?

ANSWER

I think the honourable gentleman should ask the ABC. We are very concerned that the broadcast is not effective and that it is not getting to the people that it should be reaching. We have made many representations to the ABC people. In fact, they come to Darwin often these days. The staff of the ABC is also very concerned and has made representations on behalf of Territorians many times.

701 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is the government's intention regarding the provision of library facilities in the Darwin city area to replace the old Darwin Public Library?

ANSWER

My department is actively investigating the future siting of such a library. Space has been a problem. When I have further information, I will give it to the honourable member.

702 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he yet in a position to advise the House what type of assistance will be given to people disadvantaged as a result of the collapse of the Northumberland Insurance Company?

ANSWER

I am not in a position to inform the House what assistance the Northern Territory government can make because the question will have to be considered by Cabinet. Nevertheless, I received a briefing paper from the Department of Law last Friday. It appears - and I am speaking from memory - that the receiver of the Northumberland Insurance Company is in a position to distribute quite substantial sums of money that he has received on account of the creditors and the policy holders of the Northumberland Insurance Company. Nevertheless, due to the provisions of the Commonwealth Insurance Act, the complications involved will mean that the cost of the distribution itself will amount to some $60,000. The receiver is seeking to find some way around the impasse. It appears that this situation has been dragging on for some time.

I have instructed officers of the Department of Law to make contact with the Department of Home Affairs to see what progress can be made in an effort to expedite the distribution to creditors. This will take at least 12 months. I am proposing to have a paper submitted to Cabinet canvassing the options available. They are to assist directly at this stage or await the outcome of the winding up. The problem of assisting directly at this stage is that, once the winding-up has been finalised, there may be difficulty in recovering the funds that we have paid out in the meantime. We are somewhat on the horns of a dilemma. It is a very complex situation. If we can help without actually giving away money that we should rightfully get back, we will certainly attempt to do something.

703 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

There are various open storm drains throughout the township of Alice Springs. Whose responsibility is it to maintain those drains?

ANSWER

Negotiations are taking place at this moment with the Alice Springs corporation to reach an agreement as to who is responsible for the maintenance of these drains. The Department of Community Development currently maintains the drains. However, it may be that the corporation will take over this control with funding through the normal local government subsidy arrangements. I will be in a better position to advise the honourable member in the next 2 weeks.

704 Mr COLLINS to the CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Northern Territory government employed a firm of professional lobbyists, McIntosh Parkes and Associates of the National Press Club Canberra, to act on its behalf in the dispute between the government and the national parks authority? Has this organisation produced a document on behalf of the government entitled "Information and Background Material on the Dispute between the Northern Territory Government and the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Service"? If so, how much is this exercise costing the Northern Territory taxpayer?

ANSWER

The honourable member has asked an interesting question. The Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service budget this year was some $3.5m and all state ministers for conservation agree that the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service is an unnecessary luxury. One would have thought that the $3.5m could have been better spent in the health or housing areas because there are long-established national parks and wildlife services in the states and in this Territory. Indeed, the largest park that the ACT have declared covers one third of the surface area of the ACT and that is being run by the ACT's own parks and wildlife service and not by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. That is an extraordinary contradiction in policies.

Turning to McIntosh, Parkes and Associates, it is a fact that the Northern Territory government has retained this firm of consultants not only in relation to the matter referred to by the honourable member for Arnhem but also on a general basis to represent the interests of the Northern Territory in Canberra and to be on the spot to keep the Northern Territory government informed of actions that may be about to happen within the federal government that may affect the financial and other interests of the Northern Territory. It is a much cheaper arrangement than establishing a permanent office in the national capital. These people, through their experience in government, have the entree to many areas which it is impossible for politicians to enter. I believe that the early warnings that they are able to give us and the inside information that we obtain on other matters is of great help to us in our negotiations in certain areas with the federal government. I believe that other firms of professional consultants are retained on a general basis by other state governments to represent their interests in Canberra and elsewhere.

I am not aware of the particular document that the honourable member for Arnhem referred to. It is quite likely that a background paper on the particular subject mentioned by him has been prepared. If it has been and if it has been circulated, then I am very pleased that MacIntosh, Parkes and Associates are on the ball and presumably acting at the request of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission in this matter. I am not aware of the annual cost to the Northern Territory government of the retainer. I have heard it, but that was quite some months ago. I certainly can obtain the information for the honourable member in due course.

705 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What projects or plans does the government have in mind to dissuade under-age drinkers who are associated with organised sports to not drink alcohol and so improve their formative sporting ability?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice.

706 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for HEALTH

As he would know, health sisters would normally be required to do a 5 or 6 weeks' survey of health needs in rural areas. It is now almost June and no health sisters at all have visited some areas in my electorate. Normally they do not do so before about July anyway. Could the honourable minister advise the reasons for lack of visits by health sisters to remote areas?

ANSWER

I cannot advise at such short notice why some areas in his electorate have not been visited for some time. I make the point that members are remiss in their duty if they wait for these things to go on for 5 or 6 months and then raise the issue as a question without notice in the House. I believe that any member who comes across a deficiency in the health services should raise the matter the moment it is recognised. That way something can be done about it.

707 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I noted on last night's Territory television news that the Housing Commission has now completed its restoration of cyclone-damaged houses. Could the minister please inform the House of the commission's building program in Darwin for the forthcoming financial year?

ANSWER

The Housing Commission's program for 1979/80 is subject to budgetary considerations and, at the present time, it has a program for the building of 450 houses for the general public, 210 staff houses for the Northern Territory government and staff flats of approximately 50 accommodation units. That is a preliminary figure and it is the accommodation units which are proposed to be added to existing contracts. The commission has an on-going building program that does not stop on 30 June and start again on 1 July. It has many contracts underway throughout the Northern Territory that will be producing houses and units well into the next year that are not included in the figures that I just mentioned.

708 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Are the telephone numbers - Darwin 80 2610 and 89 2211 - which are given in the Commonwealth Government Handbook of Child Safety as the numbers at which emergency advice on poisons and accidents is available manned 24 hours a day?

ANSWER

I think it is unreasonable of the honourable member to expect an off-the-cuff answer to that and I would ask her to place the question on notice.

709 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Given that Darwin's private neuro-surgeon is away on leave, as can be expected from time to time, what steps has the Department of Health taken to ensure that a neuro-surgeon is available when no other private person in Darwin is operating in that capacity?

ANSWER

The department has an agreement with most of the states, and some of the major hospitals in the states, to obtain staff from all of the specialities within the medical profession to come to the Northern Territory on a relief basis. This particular arrangement is very formal so far as orthodontic and eye specialists are concerned and I would be very surprised to learn that there is no similar arrangement for a relief neuro-surgeon. I will endeavour to find out for the honourable member and let her know during the course of the sittings.

710 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

Recently, the minister announced a scheme to assist Northern Territory sporting bodies who were competing interstate Will the criteria apply from the date of that announcement or from 1 July this year?

ANSWER

The criteria will apply from 1 July but, in the meantime, I have issued approval for funding to be made available to some of the sporting organisations. Since then, the teams that have been sent away include a junior motor-cycle team, junior bowlers, a junior hockey team and a junior football team. In the main, the scheme will apply from 1 July for all sporting teams although that will exclude anybody under the age of 12.

711 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Have officers of his department recommended the closure of the Meneling meatworks? If so, on what grounds has the meatworks been closed?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to put the question on notice.

712 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Can I receive an assurance from him that buffaloes will not be officially shot out on properties in the Darwin, Noonamah, Batchelor and Adelaide River areas?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, I cannot give that assurance because I do not own all the properties in the Darwin, Batchelor, Noonamah and Adelaide River areas. I would think that it is an option available to the individual property holder as to whether he shoots all the buffalo on his land or not. I certainly would not be prepared to give any such undertaking.

713 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When is it expected that the Tenancy Act, which passed through all stages last sittings, will come into operation.

ANSWER

I am unable to provide that information. However, I will provide it later in the sittings.

732 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise this House whom the government has nominated to replace those people who recently resigned from the Territory Development Corporation?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, we have had 2 resignations from the Territory Development Corporation, Mr John Hickman and Mr Ralph Hayes. Both those people will be missed. Their abilities are widely known and we have replaced them with Mr John Grice of Darwin and Mr Ted Hayes of Alice Springs.

733 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Will he advise when oil samples will be taken from the Mereenie fields in view of the continuing delays and uncertainties over this matter?

ANSWER

This particular question came up last week. I assume he is referring to the 6 or 7 barrels of oil they are trying to get out at the moment. I believe the area is flood bound and it is not possible to move the machinery in to extract the oil from the casing so that the reservoir samples can be taken. The tests will proceed as soon as the roads can support the heavy trucks needed to remove this surface oil.

734 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In view of reports in the media that owners of backyard caravan parks are criticising the minister's crack down on the use of residential land for caravan accommodation, can he give assurance that there will be adequate caravan parking accommodation to support the needs of residents and tourists alike?

ANSWER

It has been of some concern to me that a number of complaints have been received about our actions to encourage people in the residential areas of Darwin to stop using their backyards as caravan parks. Recently, I had a telephone survey undertaken of the 10 existing parks around Darwin. It seems that there are over 100 vacant sites on those parks at present. There will probably be a demand for most of those sites as the tourist season opens up and more people come north by road. However, the government believes that, since it is now 4½ years since Cyclone Tracy, there is very little need to tolerate a situation where any number of caravans can be put on a residential site. The caravan park owners have had to meet some very stringent requirements over the last few years and have had very big covenants to meet. It is only fair that caravan dwellers be encouraged to use those parks and that the registered parks should not have to compete with backyard caravan parks that are not meeting any of the criteria laid down by the Department of Health and other departments.

735 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is the Electricity Commission carrying out solar energy investigations independently of the Department of Mines and Energy's own activities in this regard? If so, what steps has the minister taken to ensure co-ordination of these various activities?

ANSWER

I made a statement in the House recently outlining the activities that were currently underway between our government and the government of Western Australia which is well advanced in the solar energy field. Last week, I took steps to rationalise within the Northern Territory government the activities of this joint program. I have now placed the carriage of this particular exercise with the Department of Mines and Energy to avoid any duplication by NTEC and Mines and Energy in what were really identical programs.

736 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the current position regarding the proposed establishment of a fire station at the 19-mile?

ANSWER

There were proposals to put a fire station at the 19-mile because of the expected growth in that area and the fact that certain government facilities would be established out there. At this stage, there is no further progress as the government is looking at the Darwin East proposal. I do not believe that we have confirmed any particular site or indeed even selected a year in which the fire station might be constructed. However, there is a need for fire service facilities in that region and we maintain that position.

737 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware that employees of his department are presently engaged in the dumping of huge quantities of building rubble on land adjacent to Richardson Park Oval over which an occupation licence is held by the Northern Territory Rugby League Club and for which that club is currently seeking a lease and a change in zoning from open public space to develop a car park? Will he stop the present work from continuing until such time as it is legally sanctioned?

ANSWER

I was aware of some activity in the area. I am not too sure of the legal position but I will have the matter examined.

738 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has he any further information on the maintenance program at Nhulunbuy Area School?

ANSWER

I do have some further information. I think the saga of the maintenance of the Nhulunbuy Area School would be a salutary lesson to any government concerning the difficulties in handling maintenance and servicing of facilities in remote areas. On 21 July last year, the Department of Education issued the required documentation to the Department of Construction for the letting of a $140,000 contract for repairs, maintenance and painting of the Nhulunbuy Area School. On 30 November, a contract was let to a local contractor in Nhulunbuy. Subsequent to the letting of the contract, it was found by the contractor that he could no longer complete the work. It was necessary then to carry out urgent repairs to the Nhulunbuy Area School which varied from the original specifications and this again delayed any re-letting of a tender. A tender has again

been let in a modified form. That tender was let on 24 May and it is hoped that work will commence on what is left of the $140,000 project some time in June or July.

739 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

He has indicated his intention to introduce legislation regarding the registration of firearms. Is it his intention to introduce legislation which will register the person rather than the firearm?

ANSWER

I do not think it is quite as simple as the honourable member for Nightcliff would make it appear. The question is not one which can be answered by a yes or a no. Cabinet endorsed certain principles for the preparation of the legislation only last Friday and these will be made available very shortly for discussion with the organisations that are interested in the use of firearms in the Northern Territory. No doubt we will receive comment on our ideas from these organisations. That time would be soon enough for a firm decision to be taken one way or another as to whether it will be the person or the gun that will be registered.

740 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that rail and road services into Alice Springs that have been disrupted over the past few weeks are causing a shortage of certain foodstuffs and building materials? I ask what steps the government proposes to take to ensure that residents and industry in central Australia do not suffer hardship.

ANSWER

I was aware that Alice Springs had been receiving more rain in the last couple of weeks. Ayers Rock has received 9 inches in the middle of the tourist season, which is hardly a help to the people struggling out there against many other problems. The situation in Alice Springs is that the police hope that the road from Port August will be open to traffic today. This is provided that there was no more rain last night. I do not recall hearing any reports to that effect. It will be at least a couple of weeks before the railway line is able to reopen. This has caused problems; for instance, Drings, one of the larger forwarding agents in Adelaide, is no longer accepting goods on consignment to the Northern Territory because their yards are cluttered with freight that they have not been able to despatch. The fact that there have been no trains bringing building supplies and materials of that nature for a few weeks now has caused considerable disruption to the building industry. However, it is hoped that there will not be any shortage of perishables. If it appears that this will happen through further falls of rain and it is necessary bring supplies of perishables in by air, then this will be considered by the government in consultation with the Alice Springs council with whom we make contact on a regular basis in relation to this matter. I hope that the road will be opened to heavy trucks so that these can bring supplies to the building industry.

741 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

For some years, there has been talk of a town plan for Top Springs. The local residents believe it is a matter of great urgency that a police station be established there. Could he indicate the current position as regards the Top Springs town plan?

ANSWER

I cannot answer the honourable member's question. I have been fairly closely associated with planning in the Northern Territory for a few years now and I have never heard of a town plan being prepared for Top Springs or even a draft or departmental plan. I will undertake to make inquiries and advise the honourable member. He made reference to the desirability of having a police station at Top Springs. I should point out to him that a town plan has very little to do with the police station going there. If a police station is deemed necessary, it could be programmed irrespective of whether the town has a plan or not.

742 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for HEALTH

When will the government provide regular orthodontic services in Darwin and Alice Springs?

ANSWER

The department is currently in the interview stage of recruiting 2 applicants for orthodontic positions in Alice Springs and Darwin. They are hopeful that the positions will be filled before July or August. Primarily, the function of these orthodontists will be to carry out work normally provided by private practitioners. One of the great difficulties in the Northern Territory has been to persuade orthodondists to set up in private practice. There is no way that these 2 gentlemen will be able to cope with the amount of work that will be on their plate. Consequently, there will still be a backlog. I believe that the move by the department is one in the right direction. It is to be hoped that these gentlemen will take up the positions, cope with the workload and be prepared to stay.

743 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware that 8 months ago the Darwin Community College applied to the Australian Territories Accreditation Committee for Advanced Education for accreditation of a course for an associate diploma in ceramics and the course has not yet been approved? Will he take steps to ensure that the decision on the course is taken as soon as possible to ensure its early introduction by the college?

ANSWER

I am unaware of the application; I take it that it was an associate diploma in ceramics. I do not know what the difficulty would be in obtaining an accreditation of that nature. Usually, the skill of the staff is the first guideline. I cannot see why such a course would not be accredited in the normal course of events assuming that the college has the facilities. I will certainly undertake to have the matter investigated.

744 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I ask this question on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. In view of the minister's grave concern about the fuel prices threat to the Northern Territory, as expressed in the Northern Territory News on 28 May 1979, will he urgently consider the suggestion to dam the Katherine Gorge to give hydro-electric power to the town of Katherine as well as for other purposes such as flood mitigation, water for domestic use and irrigation and to allow increased use of Katherine Gorge for tourism throughout the wet?

ANSWER

That is what you call a mixed bag of requirements. We did make some preliminary investigations on the possibility of the town of Katherine being fed by a dam placed above the gorge although we did not go deeply into the matter. It seemed that it would cost many millions of dollars. The avenue open to us at the time was to draw water from Donkey Camp and we are proceeding to let contracts for that. The matter of a dam is one that Cabinet would have to consider. It is not a matter for one minister to consider in isolation. It might take some time to assemble all the details for that consideration.

745 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to the proposed legislation on firearms. Having regard to his previous answer, will he distribute to members of the Assembly the same information that he is distributing to interested persons such as gun clubs? I do advise the minister that it is a matter of some public concern.

ANSWER

I will give it to anyone who asks me for it.

746 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the minister aware that Alice Springs Hospital has only one physiotherapist instead of 3 and that outpatients are not being treated? Can he advise what steps the department proposes to take to alleviate this problem?

ANSWER

The recruitment of physiotherapists in Alice Springs has been a continuing problem for many years. The biggest part of the problem is that we go from a feast to a famine. I had a meeting with physiotherapists in Alice Springs during February. Eleven turned up and 7 said they worked for the Department of Health. Within a matter of months the number has dwindled so that we now have only one physiotherapist. It anticipates that it will get the staff. It is very difficult to get well-qualified people to come on short notice. I anticipate that I will have replacements within a couple of months. While we do anticipate filling the vacancies, I expect we will go through this feast and famine situation for quite some time.

747 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware that a notice published in the NT News in April on behalf of an employee of the Department of Lands and Housing notifying his intention to apply for re-zoning of an allotment of land in Ludmilla Terrace from 01 to 02 was contrary to section 38A of the Town Planning Act in that it did not specify the street where the allotment was situated?

ANSWER

I did not notice that it did not comply with the act. However, I will undertake to make inquiries as to whether the Town Planning Board ruled that the advertisement was invalid. If so, I will find out if a re-advertisement program was ordered and, generally, I will try to establish what the situation is.

748 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise whether the department proposes to open a geriatric ward in the Alice Springs Hospital for retired politicians similar to that in the Harry Chan Ward in Darwin?

ANSWER

I am sure the answer is no. In Alice Springs there is the Old Timers Home and several other similar premises. One is run by an Aboriginal organisation and all perform a good deal of good work in this area. The department is determined to support the organisations that already exist rather than set up a similar unit to the Harry Chan Ward in the Darwin Hospital.

749 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Last Monday morning, on the well-known program "After 8", Her Worship the Mayor, Dr Ella Stack, said that the fencing of swimming pools was in some measure held up because of requests she had made to government departments regarding the purity of the water supply. What kind of request has been received by his department from the corporation regarding the purity of the water supply and what was the advice given?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place her question on notice.

750 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Would he confirm that, despite protracted negotiations for the allocation of an area of Knuckey's Lagoon, the lease to that area has not yet been handed over to the Aboriginal group making the needs claim?

ANSWER

I can confirm that there have been some recent difficulties in bringing together the parties to sign a lease document to hand over the portion of land at Knuckey's Lagoon to a group of Aboriginal people. However, I was advised this morning that the meeting has been arranged amongst the owners concerned so that they can sign the lease which we will have ready for presentation to them formally. I trust that this matter will be concluded within a couple of weeks.

751 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

My question is supplementary to the question I asked earlier. Development work which was subject to a proposed rezoning of land in Ludmilla Terrace was commenced approximately 3 weeks ago and the Town Planning Board, ignorant of this fact, considered the application last Friday. In view of this, will the minister stop the present work from continuing until the Town Planning Board has had an opportunity to reconsider the application?

ANSWER

The best I could do at this stage, not being familiar with the problem that the honourable member for Fannie Bay outlines, is to have immediate inquiries made to establish exactly who is doing the work and what jurisdiction the government has in the matter. I will also have the question of the alleged illegal advertisement examined. I cannot give any assurances at this stage that I will take action to stop any work.

752 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer to an article in the NT News yesterday. Did the minister tell the honourable member for MacDonnell that arsenic and acids from a Darwin-based galvanising process are being dumped at Leanyer dump? If so, when did the conversation take place and how serious is the problem?

ANSWER

It would certainly seem from the article that the honourable member was implying that I supported his claims that such by-products as acid and arsenic were being dumped at Leanyer as a result of a galvanising process in Darwin. I would suggest that, if that is the case, the honourable member is once again suffering from galloping imagination. In any event, the allegation is quite untrue on the best information that I have. I have the authority of the principals of Pap's Galvanising Pty Ltd who phoned me about the article this morning to deny emphatically that that firm dumps any such product in the Leanyer dump. That firm is the only such firm that operates a galvanising process between here and Townsville. If he is suggesting that people in Townsville are shipping their acids and arsenic over here for dumping, then that may be a different allegation. As far as I can determine, the honourable member's allegation is typical of his frequent fabrications.

There is a recognised difficulty by the Department of Community Development and by municipal councils in controlling the dumping of any noxious or dangerous substances. The matter was the result of a question on notice answered by my colleague, the Acting Minister for Community Development. I have not spoken to the man about this at all. In an answer to a question signed by my colleague, an indication was given that the government and the local government organisations recognised a difficulty in controlling noxious substances in dumps. Very expensive methods of controlling it are currently being examined by both organisations. To level that sort of allegation at the only business that can be identified in this field is a totally discreditable thing to do.

753 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I direct a question on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. Is the Alice Springs abattoir obliged to offer a service kill facility for local consumption, as stated in the paper under the heading "The Need for a Service Kill Works in the NT' by Mr A. Heath, Chief Economist of the Division of Primary Industry.

ANSWER

There are several questions on notice concerning service abattoirs. I understand that they have all now been answered. That should provide the member for Elsey with the information he requires.

754 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Brown's Mart organisation has asked for the former museum site in Smith Street to be made available for use for community arts activities. Has the Museums and Art Galleries Board handed that building back and, if so, when will it be made available for community arts activities?

ANSWER

The site is subject to an investigation being made by officers within the department. I believe that the Museums and Art Galleries Board have

handed that land back. The future use of the old Palmerston Town Hall, as it was in the early days, is still subject to investigation.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

755 Mr TUXWORTH: The honourable member for MacDonnell asked me when the sample would be taken from Mereenie. At 10.10 this morning a message came off the telex to say that, subject to fine weather, the barrel sample will be taken from Mereenie this weekend.

756 Mr TUXWORTH: The honourable member for Victoria River asked why there have been no health sisters visiting the Victoria River area. The answer from the department is that there are 2 resident subsidised sisters on Victoria River Downs Station. Staff shortages have made it difficult to fill the mobile team for the area. The situation is improving and it is anticipated that the mobile team will set out during the month of June.

757 Mr TUXWORTH: The honourable member for Nightcliff asked a question relating to the Department of Health providing relief whilst the neuro-surgeon is on leave. The Health Department does not employ a neuro-surgeon and is indeed fortunate to be able to engage on a part-time basis the services of a private neuro-surgeon in Darwin. The neuro-surgeon concerned, as a part of the arrangement with the department, has undertaken to recruit a locum should he be absent from Darwin for more than 3 weeks at a time. It is not feasible to engage a locum for less than this period and general surgical staff at Darwin Hospital will see to any problems and arrange the evacuation of any patients interstate where it is necessary.

758 Mr TUXWORTH: The Leader of the Opposition asked a question relating to the closure of meatworks by the Health Department. The Health Department has no information about the closure, if it has been done, and can only think that the closure has been done by some other agency.

759 Mr DONDAS: The honourable member for Sanderson asked me a question yesterday relating to the Tenancy Act. The act was assented to by the Administrator on 27 April and action is currently in hand for the Administrator to gazette the commencement date of the act.

763 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Does the Electricity Commission have any plans to extend the supply of underground power in Darwin's northern suburbs?

ANSWER

There are plans and there is considerable work being conducted at the moment by the commission in the northern suburbs, particularly in relation to undergrounding. I do not have the details of the respective suburbs and the number of allotments involved. I will obtain information for the honourable member.

764 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

The minister will recall telling the Assembly in March that there had been a good response to advertisements for occupational therapists to staff the rehabilitation unit at Darwin Hospital. Can he explain why the positions were recently re-advertised in southern newspapers?

ANSWER

I cannot advise the honourable member. If the honourable member had given me half an hour's notice on a question like that, I could have given her the answer.

765 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did the Northern Territory government send a representative to the recent conference on deers held in Melbourne? Can he give any details?

ANSWER

There was a conference concerning deer which an officer from the Department of Industrial Development attended. It is departmental policy to send young professional officers to conferences and meetings throughout Australia so that they may gain experience in fields like deer farming. Deer farming may have some significiance for the Northern Territory. We have a couple of herds of deer and this is specifically mentioned in the feral animals report. The symposium was most valuable for the Northern Territory.

766 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has he seen an article in today's Darwin Star stating that the Northern Territory government is opening a new office in Canberra? Is the statement correct? If it is correct, will it mean that the lobbyists engaged by the Northern Territory government will have their contract terminated?

ANSWER

I have had a look at the front page of today's Darwin Star but I have not read it in detail. Usually, there is very little in the Star worth reading because it seems to be mainly a trade journal carrying advertisements. I understand that the Northern Territory government will be able to avail itself of the use of the premises which are accupied by MacIntosh Parkes and Associates in Canberra. Should Northern Territory government ministers of officials require secretarial assistance whilst in Canberra, we will be able to avail ourselves of assistance at the office of these people. I am certainly not aware that we are taking up an office on behalf of the Northern Territory government in Canberra.

767 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Moves have been made by the Commonwealth government to start a program of coastal surveillance by plane. Should something of an alien nature be spotted, what action will be taken?

ANSWER

Each sighting of vessels or planes requires a different response. The general pattern is that the surveillance crew will immediately issue an in-flight report to the Australian Coastal Surveilllance Command Centre in Canberra. Local police forces in the area in question are then contacted, as are relevant Commonwealth, state and territory departmental officials. The departments that will normally be contacted are health, immigration, customs and primary industry. In respect to the role that local police forces play, the approach taken is identical to the normal search and rescue operation techniques that have been in existence for some time. The Australian Coastal Surveillance Command Centre therefore provides a response service and a high degree of cooperation exists between the Territory government officials and the command centre.

768 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the Northern Territory government holding discussions today with the South Australian and Commonwealth governments with a view to having the Northern Territory government take over the maintenance and servicing of Aboriginal settlements in north and south Australia? If so, have financial arrangements been agreed upon?

ANSWER

Discussions have transpired for quite some time now, but only on an intermittent basis. There has been difficulty in getting various parties to the conference table. The purpose of the meeting, which was originally convened a year or 2 ago by the then Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Ian Viner, was to try to establish a central servicing centre for the Pitjandjara people who are scattered through the Northern Territory, the south-west of the Northern Territory, the north-west of South Australia and across into Western Australia. I am not absolutely certain that there are talks proceeding today, but we did receive a request recently for talks to resume and I can assure you that it was not the Northern Territory government that has been unwilling to attend these talks. We attend them whenever they are convened. I am quite certain that it has not got to the stage where the Northern Territory government will be taking over the provision of all services to the Pitjandjara people because of the feelings of South Australia and Western Australia about the role that they have to play. I believe that there is considerable antipathy between certain departments in South Australia and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs which has centralised its administration of the Pitjandjara region in Alice Springs. We will certainly attempt to cooperate in whatever plans are finally devised.

I made an informal suggestion to a fairly senior South Australian official at the Aboriginal Affairs Ministers Conference a couple of weeks ago in Adelaide. I suggested that perhaps one state or territory should look after health and another should look after community welfare services to try to cut out the bickerings that go on between bureaucracies and to see that all the Pitjandjara people receive a single standard of services. That official seemed to think that that was not such a bad idea. It may be that the idea will be floated before all the officials when the meeting reconvenes.

769 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

This morning there was an item on "Morning Extra" which dealt with a controversy that arose in Alice Springs over the provision of specialist housing for Aboriginal people and the Treasurer's name was used. Can he advise the House of the nature of the controversy and his role in it and if the people are not to be given the precise type of housing they require?

ANSWER

The question would be answered better in a ministerial statement rather than an ad hoc answer. The Department of Aboriginal Affairs proposed some time ago to fund the construction of some special Aboriginal housing in urban centres throughout the Northern Territory. The Northern Territory government readily agreed to the Housing Commission having the agency of the construction of these houses and their administration. In this way the Northern Territory government would have some control over the operation rather than reject the suggestion and let the Commonwealth have the Department of Construction build the houses. A program was drawn up whereby houses were to be built in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek as a first stage. A figure of $1m has been set aside by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs for this program generally. In Alice Springs, a contract has been let to build 15 houses and, in Tennant Creek, a contract is nearly let for a further 5 houses.

Some controversy has emerged as a result of people becoming disturbed at the siting of these houses. They are sited in normal urban areas. Some of them in Alice Springs are to replace former welfare houses that are due for demolition. Some are sited on vacant lots and others in the new Head Street subdivision which is yet to be settled. There is some community concern and this is appreciated. However, the project will be proceeding on the basis that there will be a Homemakers Service established which will be run by the Department of Community Development in the Northern Territory. There has been much discussion on the establishment of the Homemakers Service and its role in assisting people to fit in with the urban community. In addition, the selection of persons to go into these houses will be undertaken by a committee. I have written to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs on the question of the composition of the selection committee and proposed that the Northern Territory government should have more involvement than was initially intended.

770 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I have often voiced my concern about the neglected state of some properties not only in my electorate but in other electorates. Is the government enforcing the lease conditions laid out under section 35 of the Darwin Town Area Leases Act and are funds still available for the clearing of over-grown, government-owned blocks?

ANSWER

The subject of unkempt lots, both government and private, is of great concern. I think the town still looks pretty shabby. The department is conducting routine lease investigations and is issuing notices where appropriate to private lessees pointing out to them that under section 35 of the Darwin Town Area Leases Act, persons are required to keep their land free from debris, weeds and rubbish. After a 28-day period of having had a notice served on them, a following notice is served. I understand that the response has been quite good from private land owners in this regard and I would like to record my appreciation of those persons

who are accepting their responsibilities. At this stage, the department has not taken the following step of going onto private land to clean it up itself.

As far as the government land is concerned, there are still funds available for the clearing of government-owned vacant lots. The practice of burning off these lots has been discontinued following an unfortunate incident where a fire got out of hand and damaged a neighbouring property. If honourable members would like to provide a list of government lots that they believe should be cleaned up, the department will undertake to have them cleaned up. If they are private lots, we will check the files to ensure that notices have been served on the relevant lessees.

771 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will the study of the Darwin central business district, which was commenced last year, be completed?

ANSWER

I am not sure which study the honourable member refers to. The central business district is covered by the 1978 Darwin Town Plan. There have been on-going studies in the central business district as far as traffic patterns are concerned. We are looking at the possible re-direction of traffic and the adoption of certain bus routes in the city. There have also been studies into the car-parking requirements of central Darwin, particularly as a result of the mall. However, I am not aware of any other particular studies into the central business district of Darwin.

772 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I ask this question on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. Because the Katherine meatworks are licensed meat exporters under the AMLC Act, are they subject to the following obligation: "If the owners of the livestock so request, the licensee shall slaughter and treat livestock, or cause the livestock to be slaughtered and treated on account of the owner, on a weight and grade basis for submission for export at the rate and on conditions specified from time to time by the corporation in writing for that person"?

ANSWER

The quote from the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation Act is from section 11(1)(b). The administration of that act is the responsibility of the Commonwealth government. I refer to my answer to question without notice 612 on 22 May in which I said: "Under the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation Act, section 11(1)(b), the AMLC can compel an export establishment to kill on consignment. However, there are doubts as to the effectiveness of that section which I understand the Commonwealth government has under review. I made representations in October last year to Mr Sinclair, the Commonwealth minister, urging him to make any necessary amendments so that all export meatworks can be compelled by the AMLC to kill on consignment. As I understand the situation, the Katherine meatworks could only be compelled to kill cattle, not to process them. Because of these problems, the AMLC has not sought to enforce section 11(1)(b). Thus, at present, Katherine abattoirs are not required to kill and process cattle for outsiders".

773 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Was the minister reported correctly on "Morning Extra" this morning when it was indicated that he had stated it would set a very dangerous precedent to ask neighbours their opinion before moving families into Housing Commission homes and he would not be a party to such an exercise?

ANSWER

The answer is yes. The Housing Commission does not ask approval of neighbours of any house where it proposes to house any ethnic group - Timorese, Greek, Chinese or whatever. I do not think we should adopt such a practice in relation to Aboriginals. I further understand that it was reported on the ABC that I was acting under a federal government directive in regard to Aboriginal housing. I would like to set the record straight that the federal government does not have such powers of direction nor has it sought to influence my decisions in this regard in any way.

774 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

I ask this question on behalf of the hounourable member for Elsey. Is he aware of reports in the Australian of 30 May that the EEC concessions of imports of Australian produce, particularly buffalo beef, is to the extent of 2,000 tonnes and is worth $5m per annum? In light of the improved markets, will the government pursue the policy recommended in the Feral Animals Report of encouraging domestication and controlled buffalo meat production in industry?

ANSWER

We welcome the article in the newspaper and we trust that it is accurate. We have been making representations to people like Vic Garland and Doug Anthony on buffalo meat for some 10 months now. In fact, when the levy of $2,000 a tonne was imposed upon buffalo exports out of the Northern Territory, we were most anxious to see this decision reversed. It has been reversed and I understand that, through the Special Trades Division of the Department of Primary Industry, buffalo meat can now flow into the EEC and obtain good prices for Territory producers. In respect of the Feral Animals Report, we are concerned that some domestication of buffalo again takes place. This is not a guarantee that the market will always be there and, of course, it will be at the risk of those persons who wish to pursue that particular activity.

775 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Northern Territory government prepared submissions to the National Parks and Wildlife Service regarding the plan of management for Kakadu National Park, particularly as that plan affects Jabiru?

ANSWER

Not only has the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission prepared submissions to the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service in relation to the plan of management for the Kakadu National Park, it has done better than that. The Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service is a fledgling service, lacking in expertise and certainly lacking ground management experience because it has never controlled any national parks other than the Uluru National Park and even then not to any great extent. Kakadu has only recently been purported to be declared by the Commonwealth government. The Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission is sending 2 of

its experienced officers to Canberra to assist in the formulation of a detailed plan of management. They will be there for at least 2 weeks. I am sure that the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service will greatly benefit from the experience and the wise counsel that they will receive.

776 Mr BALLANTYNE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the Northern Territory government provide practical assistance to the unit that is interested in making a film of Mrs Aeneas Gunn's classic "We of the Never Never" for the Victorian government?

ANSWER

The Territory government will consider making assistance available. By way of elucidation on film-making generally, the Territory government, through officials of the Chief Minister's Department, is holding conversations with the South Australian Film Corporation and Film Australia in respect of film-making potential in the Northern Territory. Both of these statutory corporations are interested in assisting the Northern Territory and we are interested in achieving what we can with either of them. I do not know where the film unit comes from that is the subject of this question, but I would think that a film titled "We of the Never Never", spiced up a little to have some box-office draw, should help promote the Territory down south and overseas - preferably overseas than down south because it would certainly be a rough old film and we do not want to promte that image too much down south.

777 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

He will be aware of the dissatisfaction with the accommodation and amenities available for staff at Nhulunbuy Hospital. What action does his department plan to undertake to upgrade this accommodation to the 2 levels now available in other towns in the Northern Territory so that staff can be retained at that hospital?

ANSWER

I am aware that the department has embarked on an upgrading program in all centres. This is mainly to keep up with the increase in standards of facilities that are expected by staff that work in remote areas. I would venture to say that the Northern Territory has some of the most luxurious remote area accommodation offered anywhere in Australia. The Health Department will endeavour to increase its cover so that every facility that it services in the Northern Territory has the most modern accommodation available.

In particular reference to Nhulunbuy, we have a problem in upgrading the facilities there because of the structural design of the existing buildings. The buildings are constructed of pre-cast concrete. It is not a simple case of knocking a wall out and extending a room. There are very considerable costs involved in any remodelling. The department is looking at the most economic way of upgrading the accommodation.

778 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

The other day the member for Alice Springs asked a question about open drains. My question relates to stormwater drains around Darwin and the suburbs. Some of these drains do not have safety grids over them. Is it a requirement that all stormwater drains have safety grids placed over their entrances?

ANSWER

The short answer is no. There is no legal requirement for the grids. However, the department itself is concerned that some of these manholes and openings should have grids placed over them and, in some cases, we have done that. It is up to the city council to ensure that grids are placed over the places over which it has control.

779 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he consider allowing cyclists to use footpaths in urban areas, as is done in Canberra, until bicycle tracks are available to the suburbs?

ANSWER

This would only apply on 307 roads. In respect of the other roads, it would be up to the city council. The only 307 roads that concern us are Bagot Road and possibly Stuart Highway in Alice Springs. We are incorporating a cycle track for the connector road from Nightcliff to Fannie Bay. We looked at the Bagot Road proposal to incorporate bicycle tracks inside the RAAF fence and we decided that, because of the difficulty in getting across the main Stuart Highway junction, it would be impracticable to proceed with that particular idea. If necessary, I suppose we could consider the matter again.

780 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Is it a fact that the operators of the Aboriginal Hostel in Katherine are recruiting children who formerly travelled to Kormilda College for secondary education for enrolment in the Katherine High School?

ANSWER

The new manager of the Aboriginal Hostel in Katherine has made approaches to a number of Aboriginal parents and students. At the beginning of this week, 7 children arrived at the Katherine Aboriginal Hostel for the purpose of enrolling at the Katherine High School. I also understand that the aircraft that went out to pick up a number of students for Kormilda College from the homes of Aboriginal families found they were not coming back to Kormilda. One assumes, on that limited information, that there may well be a connection between the two. The difficulty in transferring children from Kormilda College to the Katherine High School is the lack of appropriate courses available at the Katherine High School. Kormilda initially caters for post-primary education rather than formal secondary education and does so until the basic literacy and numeracy is brought up to normal high school course level.

The payment to Aboriginal families under the Aboriginal Secondary Grants Scheme is conditional upon the Department of Education indicating to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs that the courses provided are appropriate to the students. The department would find itself in the very awkward position of either having to lie, which it would not do, or deprive those families of grants. If this new manager of the Katherine hostel thinks that he is doing the Aboriginal people a service by persuading them, in "pied piper" fashion, from Kormilda to Katherine High School, then he is wrong and is actually doing them a disservice. I hope that officers of the department and people from Kormilda can talk to those students and their parents and persuade them that their best interest is not being served by being coaxed away in this manner. If the problem continues, we will have to transfer the staff from Kormilda to Katherine High

School so as to provide the lost service and Kormilda - a multi-million dollar building - will end up like another Dhupuma and we would find ourselves paying $28,000 per head per student.

781 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Did he see in the public media last week remarks attributed to the Mayor of Darwin that she had called for the transfer of building and town planning functions to local government councils? Does the government have a time-scale within which such transfers will take place and, if so, how does it operate?

ANSWER

The subject of the transfer of further functions to local government, and I will refer only to those regarding town planning and building control, has been one of discussion for at least the last couple of years. At present, there is no proposal to transfer the function of town planning to local government in the Northern Territory and there are very good reasons for this. The local government, in virtually all centres in the Territory - perhaps Darwin does not quite fit into this category - is not of the size to have the resources to engage town planners or to operate a town planning section as this would obviously be very expensive. So far as Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs are concerned, there is no way that they could possibly justify the employment of full-time town planners with the grades necessary to prepare and administer plans for their respective communities.

The new Town Planning Act that was passed by this House some short time ago and has not yet commenced will involve local government on a newly-structured Town Planning Board to the degree that they will have a majority on that board. Therefore, local government input to planning decisions will be at the very highest level. Those municipalities will still be able to use the department's resources to assist them with their own special projects or general representations concerning town planning.

In regard to building approvals, the government has been concerned at the number of agencies that developers have to approach to obtain building approvals in the Territory and this applies to the rest of Australia as well.

The Northern Territory government has an interdepartmental committee that is preparing documentation for Cabinet which hopefully will recommend a one-stop building approval system. This will involve local governments to a degree because they currently have certain controls over building, particularly in the field of drainage. The system is quite complex and has been approached by the states without a great deal of success over a period of years. We hope that we will have some success but it will not involve transferring the function to local government. This government does not have any particular plans for any time-scale at this stage.

782 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I ask this question on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. What action has been taken to upgrade the road to Edith Falls? Are there plans to seal this and other roads leading to major tourist attractions in the Katherine area?

ANSWER

If my memory serves me correctly, I have had some communication from residents in the Elsey electorate concerning Edith Falls road. I have asked the department to report on the matter. I hope that some work can be carried out in the next program.

783 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he undertake to have further engineering studies made of the Ludmilla sewage treatment plant and its outfall in view of evidence that the system is not working properly - if indeed it ever has - and in view of the need to extend the pipeline beyond the low water mark?

ANSWER

I will certainly have the matter examined to see if something can be done if there is a smell.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

784 Mr PERRON: The member for Fannie Bay queried the procedure involved in the re-zoning of a lot in Ludmilla Terrace. I am advised that the lot in question has been held under an occupational licence by the Darwin Football Club and it adjoins the lot held by the same club under a special purpose lease. To enable the development of the whole area as a football ground and ancillaries, the lot covered by the occupation licence was advertised for re-zoning to permit both lots to be amalgamated into one special purpose lease. The advertisement of the proposed re-zoning mentioned the lot by its formal identification as lot 3724 Town of Darwin so that it could not be confused with any other lot and therefore the advertisement was legal and could be considered by the Town Planning Board. It is true that some construction work commenced some weeks ago on the site but these works had nothing to do with the re-zoning application and had not been in conflict with the then status of the lot as an occupational licence. Persons holding occupational licences can quite often make improvements to the land at their own risk and an occupational licence is renewable yearly. If they are not renewed, the improvements are forfeited. If a person seeks to go ahead on that basis, he can.

785 Mr PERRON: The honourable member for Victoria River asked whether the government was proposing to draw up a town plan for Top Springs. I am advised that Rabbit Flat would probably rate about the same status as far as a town plan is concerned. If the honourable member is concerned primarily about the placing of a police station at Top Springs, then he should perhaps make representations to the Chief Minister.

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PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

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QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 22 AUGUST 1979

FROM 28 NOVEMBER 1978

201 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is causing the delay in the signing of the lease agreement between V.B. Perkins & Company and the Northern Territory Port Authority, a matter which has now been in dispute for exactly 6 years?

FROM 27 FEBRUARY 1979

268 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Did the Prime Minister write to the Chief Minister during 1978 concerning the proposal by the Heritage Commission to proclaim the Alligator Rivers region as part of the National Heritage?

2. If so, on what dates?

3. Did the Chief Minister respond?

4. If so, on what dates?

5. Did the Chief Minister object to the proposal?

6. If so, on what terms?

FROM 6 MARCH 1979

312 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has a decision been taken on the type of vehicle which will replace the present Holden pursuit vehicles of the Traffic Branch?

2. Will these vehicles be air-conditioned?

3. Has consideration been given by the department to supplying its officers with personal sidearms instead of the current practice of officers purchasing their own sidearms?

343 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can the minister advise the current position of the $150,000 advanced by the NT government to V.B. Quinton?

FROM 15 MAY 1979

391 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to the NT Places Names Committee and ask the following:

1. What is the current membership of this committee?

2. How many members of this committee were actually born in the Territory?

3. How many members of this committee are of Aboriginal descent?

4. Have persons of Aboriginal descent ever been appointed to this committee?

5. How many members of this committee reside in Darwin?

6. How many members of this committee reside in Alice Springs?

7. How many members of this committee reside in other Territory centres?

8. What is the normal term of appointment to the committee?

9. What are the duties and responsibilities of the committee?

474 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is it a fact that shortage of serviced land in Katherine is preventing the provision of sufficient housing for the 20-odd people on the Housing Commission list?

2. Does the NT government have plans for providing Katherine with a satellite development area as it has for Darwin?

3. Will 5 and 10 acre blocks be available in the Katherine area in 1979?

488 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many adults currently live on each of the Aboriginal settlements and missions in the Northern Territory?

2. How many adults are currently employed on each of the Aboriginal settlements and missionsin the Northern Territory?

3. How many adults are currently in receipt of unemployment benefits on each of the Aboriginal settlements and missions in the Northern Territory?

4. How often are updated statistics collected on the above questions?

FROM 22 MAY 1979

531 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Does the Department of Primary Industry have a program of field days and like functions to assist in disseminating knowledge to farmers and pastoralists?

(b) If there is a program, can it be made public?

(c) What field days or encouragement groups are planned for small farmers with interests in pigs, goats, poultry, small farming machinery, vegetable growing, flower production, fruit tree growing and horticultural pests?

(d) If there is no program of field days to assist primary producers, why not?

587 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) What measures are intended to control or eradicate noxious weeds such as parkinsonia, mimosa, salvinia, water hyacinth and many others in the Territory?

(b) Is it a fact that mimosa was virtually eradicated in the NT when the program was stopped?

(c) Is it a fact that the Department of Primary Industry has only one weeds agronomist who has 2, possibly 3, assistants?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 22 AUGUST 1979

590 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will he set up an authority to enable regular consultations between meat processors and producers to take place for the benefit of the Territory cattle industry as a whole?

FROM 29 MAY 1979

602 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has a form recently been introduced at Darwin Hospital which requires a husband of a married woman seeking an abortion to sign a statement indicating his consent?

2. Was the form drafted by the Attorney-General's Department?

3. Is there any legal necessity for a husband's consent to be obtained before a married woman can obtain an abortion in the NT? If so, please provide details?

4. If the answer to 3. is yes, why has such consent in writing not been obtained previously?

5. If the answer to 3. is no, why is such consent now required?

6. Is the husband's consent required either by the hospital, or in law, or both, in the case of a married woman living separately from her husband?

629 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Could the minister provide accurate figures on crop development programs at Katherine and Upper Adelaide River Experimental Farms?

2. Were they a success?

FROM 22 AUGUST 1979

689 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Can he say when construction work will actually begin on the Tennant Creek abattoir?

2. When will work start on the scheme to supply water to the abattoir and when is it likely to be finished?

3. How much will the water supply scheme cost the Northern Territory government?

4. What is the latest information from the successful company on the throughput, number of staff they will employ and how soon they expect to be actually killing cattle?

714 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Have officers of his department recommended the closure of Meneling meatworks and, if so, on what grounds?

2. Have the meatworks in fact been closed?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 22 AUGUST 1979

719 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much was received by the Commonwealth by way of payments for hospital services, including physiotherapy, for victims of motor vehicle accidents during the 1977-78 financial year?

2. How much was received by the Commonwealth by way of payments for hospital services, including physiotherapy, for victims of motor vehicles accidents for the period 1 July 1978 to 31 December 1978?

3. How much was received by the Northern Territory government by way of payments for hospital services, including physiotherapy, for victims of motor vehicle accidents in the period 1 January 1979 to 31 March 1978?

720 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What was the revenue from the NT bus service for 1977-78?

2. What is the anticipated revenue from the NT bus service for 1978-79?

726 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

1. Who are the members of each statutory authority under the minister's responsibility?

2. How much is paid to each member by way of sitting fees and other allowances?

762 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Is it a fact that there are navigation hazards in the inner Darwin harbour such as submerged buoys and wrecks which have not yet been cleared?

2. If so, why have they not yet been cleared by the Port Authority?

3. Is it because of a shortage of funds?

786 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Further to my question on notice number 438, what extension activities are conducted by Division of Primary Industry staff for the benefit of farmers in the Alice Springs area?

2. Has the NT government received and considered proposals from officers or anyone else regarding incentives for extra production to Alice Springs farmers?

3. What action can he take by way of upgrading marketing facilities to ensure that more local farm produce is absorbed by the Alice Springs market?

792 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What is the name and address of the owner(s) of each Northern Territory pastoral lease?

2. What is the name and address of the purchaser(s) of each Northern Territory pastoral lease sold or which otherwise changed ownership during the financial years 1972-73; 1973-74; 1974-75; 1975-76; 1976-77; 1977-78 and 1978-79?

793 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware of the problems associated with the high saline content in the water supply of the farm area in Alice Springs and, if so, what steps will be taken by his department to overcome these problems?

794 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has he investigated the means of making more land, presently flood prone, available for housing in Katherine, or is the answer to this problem one for the Minister for Transport and Works as stated in your answer to question No. 534?

798 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

What are the reasons for the change in the Public Service Home Sales Scheme whereby an eligible public servant can now apply to purchase only the house in which he currently resides?

802 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

When will the Bagot Speedway be moved to its new location?

In the meantime, will the government assist nearby residents by arranging sound barriers or other protective measures to reduce noise from the speedway's loudspeaker system?

806 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Will he encourage the CSIRO to set up a tropical cattle research centre in the Top End to concentrate on nutrition and other problems associated with cattle turn off in this area?

2. Do experiments with urea, being carried out on sheep at Julia Creek by CSIRO, have a direct bearing on nutrition of cattle in the Top End?

3. Does he intend using scientific assistance to help control weeds such as parkinsonia, needle bush, hyptis, rubber bush, china apple, datura forex and others?

807 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What is the NT government doing now to ensure the promotion of agriculture as recemmended by 2 trade delegation reports?

2. What steps are being taken to train farmers, farm laborers, etc, now to implement recommendations of the trade delegation reports?

3. Is the government ensuring that importers of beef are receiving the "after sales care" recommended in the report of the first trade delegation?

808 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What steps are being taken to make suitable land available for production of -

(a) peanuts;

(b) guar;

(c) mung bean;

(d) sorghum;

(e) rice;

(f) maize; and

such other crops, including pasture seeds and hay, as can be economically marketed in Australia and abroad?

809 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Considering that 6,000 tons of sorghum is needed for Top End stock feed requirements annually, will the government provide, as an incentive to farmers, $1m for a cargo of 5,000 tons of superphosphate to help establish 50,000-100,000 acres of cultivation?

810 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. What languages are taught in each high school in the Territory?

2. On what basis are languages to be taught selected?

3. Are efforts made to provide courses in the languages of the larger ethnic groups represented in the NT population?

811 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

With reference to the Casuarina public library -

1. When will it be operating?

2. Will it be open at evenings and weekends as well as normal business hours?

3. In addition to public lending services, will it be able to provide -

   (a) reference information services;

   (b) services to institutions such as prisons and hospitals;

   (c) foreign language services;

   (d) services to industry;

   (e) services to the housebound and country borrowers; and

   (f) audio-visual services?

4. What will be its level of staffing?

812 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What NT government departments (or their branches) have libraries?

2. What are their staffing levels?

438 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Is he aware that some farmers in the Alice Springs area have received very little or no incentives from government to expand local production of fresh fruit and vegetables?

2. If so, what action will be taken by the NT government to provide incentives for those farmers in need?

3. What action can be taken by the NT government to provide adequate marketing facilities in Alice Springs for local farm produce?

ANSWER

1. The government provides assistance to farmers producing fresh fruit and vegetables in the Alice Springs area by way of the extension activities conducted by Division of Primary Industry staff.

2. The NT government has no plans for offering incentives for extra production to Alice Springs farmers at this stage.

   Assistance to producers in need is provided via the Northern Territory Development Corporation through the workings of the Rural Adjustment Scheme and other forms of financial help.

   The local market could absorb more local produce than is being grown. Available land and water resources, while limited, would allow for increases in present production.

3. The NT government has no plans for upgrading marketing facilities at Alice Springs. At present these consist of a farmers' market on Saturday mornings in Todd Street, and Tully's fruit and vegetable wholesalers. Tully's would take more local produce if offered.

441 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

How many new positions have been created in the NT Public Service since self-government, excluding compulsory transferees?

ANSWER

Between 1.7.78 and 31.3.79 there has been a total increase in establishment (positions) of 8,060. During this period 7,028 positions were identified by the Commonwealth as performing functions transferred to the NT government. This is an increase of 1,032 over and above the number identified.

443 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What is the length of the existing pipeline from the sewage treatment plant at Ludmilla to the Darwin harbour?

2. Is it intended to extend the pipeline to 800 metres as was originally specified?

3. Is there any money, allocated for this project, remaining?

4. Are tests carried out of the Ludmilla Creek and Darwin harbour waters and, if so, how often, to measure the effect of the operation of the treatment plant?

5. What are the results of these tests?

ANSWER

1. The distance from the land terminal manhole on the north side of East Point, to the point of discharge, is 468 metres.

2. Five alternative possibilities for a pipeline extension have been examined, including consideration of estimated capital and operation costs. All schemes would involve expenditure of several million dollars.

   It is proposed to undertake further site investigations and other engineering studies to allow cost estimates and other issues to be more closely examined.

3. Relatively small sums of money remain uncommitted from the original central zone scheme, but such monies are only minor compared with the funds required for any of the extension schemes under consideration.

4. Tests were carried out, taking samples from Ludmilla Creek and the bay both before and after the treatment plant was commissioned. Such samples were taken on 13 different occasions between 1973 and 1978. General testing of the Darwin harbour waters has been carried out for some 10 years and is continuing.

5. In the bay it was found that beyond a radius of 50 metres from the discharge, the results obtained were indistinguishable from the surrounding sea water. These samples were taken when the tide was above mean sea level.

   The tests in Ludmilla Creek show a considerable improvement in water quality since the treatment plant was commissioned, as the treatment plant does not normally discharge into the creek, and the pre-existing discharges into the creek were intercepted by the central zone sewerage scheme. An exception to the above arrangement sometimes occurs during times of heavy rainfall, where additional water enters the sewerage reticulation system and dilutes the sewage, and on occasions the treatment plant is by-passed and sewage flows into Ludmilla Creek, where it is further diluted by storm water before discharging into the bay.

445 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Is he aware that a market exists in Japan for chillies?

2. Will he make inquiries and obtain particulars and seeds of the desired variety and propagate the plants to enable trial crops to be planted in 1979-80?

ANSWER

1. Yes, although I understand that because of plant quarantine regulations the import market is confined to dried chillies, the demand for which is met mainly by producers in Pakistan, Thailand and China. I also understand that imports in the near future are not expected to increase beyond the current level.

2. No. As a first priority our research resources will be committeed to investigating production of the more common crops for the local, southern and near Asian markets.

449 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

What assistance can the NT government give the appropriate authorities to hasten the upgrading of radio, telephone and television services for all Territorians?

ANSWER

The provision of radio, telephone and television services is a responsibility of the Federal government, as is the upgrading of those services. There are no appropriate authorities to be assisted by the Territory government. The Territory government maintains constant pressure on the Commonwealth government by continuing representations for improvement and upgrading of services. It was recently successful in arranging for a visit to the Northern Territory by the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs and I took him on a tour through the Territory to demonstrate the need for improved services, particularly in the remote areas. Although there have been imporvements in the services, my government will continue to press for the improvement and upgrading of services provided in the Territory to at least the equivalent of standards provided in the states.

450 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that approximately 30,000 Territorians are deprived of local news, weather forecasts and special programs designed for outback Territorians because the ABC and Telecom have fallen down on their jobs of providing these services?

ANSWER

Yes.

451 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that adequate radio reception could be afforded to the whole of the Territory by the provision of approximately $700,000 to supply and upgrade transmitters?

ANSWER

No. Please supply particulars.

455 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

What is being done to help make Aboriginal communities such as Roper River self-sufficienet in -

(a) beef;

(c) fresh vegetables and fruit, such as pawpaw, banana, etc; and

(d) fish?

ANSWER

The Commonwealth government's policy on Aboriginal affairs has the promotion of self-sufficiency as one of its principal objectives. Communities are given every encouragement and assistance in establishing socio-economic or subsistence type projects. The department's main source of funds for these projects are:

(a) the "Enterprise" item of the department's Grants-in-Aid program;

(b) the Aboriginal Loans Commission; and

(c) the Aboriginal Land Fund Commission, which provides funds for the acquisition of land with a view to establishing and operating subsistence type cattle projects.

In addition to the above statutory bodies, the Aboriginal Benefit Trust Account (formerly the Aborigines Benefits Trust Fund) also provides funds to communities for developmental purposes. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, some time ago, outlined proposals to establish an Aboriginal Development Agency, which would integrate the functions of the statutory bodies referred to above and the DAA "Enterprise" item. The object of the agency would be primarily to support the establishment of economic and socio-economic projects at Aboriginal communities.

Subsistence type cattle projects are at present operating at Goulburn Island, Croker Island and Roper River. The Department of Aboriginal Affairs expects to transfer the cattle projects at Hooker Creek and Beswick Station to Aboriginal control as soon as certain financial issues have been resolved. Action is being taken to upgrade existing fishing projects at a number of communities, including Goulburn Island and Croker Island and Umbakumba.

Every possible assistance is given by the department to encourage communities to develop a viable or subsistence type market garden, e.g. Angurugu, Bathurst Island, Garden Point, Port Keats.

Support provided by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to the outstation movement is aimed at attaining the highest possible measure of self-sufficiency. This is particularly relevant in the case of outstations in Arnhem Land where small market gardens and fishing projects have been established or are planned.

The Department of Aboriginal Affairs provides essential support in the establishment of economic and socio-economic projects at Aboriginal communities, based on identified need, and in full consultation with them.

456 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Realising that bread was baked in most communities in the past, could this and other similar ventures be revived to help make Aboriginal communities self-sufficient and provide employment?

ANSWER

The baking of bread is an activity that is supported and encouraged by DAA and there are a number of settlements that are baking bread and supplying other local settlements as well as their own community.

Any enterprise such as a bakery which is put forward by a community for funding is the subject of a feasibility study and if supported, either economically or socially, is approved for funding subject to priority and availability of funds.

Also see my answer to question No. 455.

457 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the present police station to be shifted from Roper Bar to the Roper River Aboriginal community?

If so, is this with the approval of the Aboriginals?

Is this with the approval of the general community, who view the present position as strategic in that it controls the crossing of the Roper River?

Is there justification for this move when there are so many single-man stations needing reinforcement, such as Mataranka?

Will the Police Department consider using an auxiliary force of Aboriginals chosen by their communities to preserve law and order?

ANSWER

It is intended to close the police station at Roper Bar and rebuild at Ngukurr.

The reasons for making this decision are that most of the police work-load in the area centres around Ngukurr, which is isolated from the Roper Bar police station during the wet season. Conversely, the area west of the river has reasonable access from Mataranka.

The present police station is in a sub-standard condition and is sited in a flood-prone area. This has had an influence on the decision to relocate.

There has been extensive consultation with the Aboriginal community which desires the establishment of a police station at Ngukurr.

During the wet season there may be a reduction in services to areas west of the river, but this will be less than the current disruption of the services east of the river. It is anticipated that there will be compensating increases in services west of the river, utilising police resources at Mataranka supplemented from Larrimah. The service will be enhanced by a planned increase in staff at Mataranka in the future.

The Police Department is moving to employ Aboriginal police aides to assist in policing Aboriginal communities. However, it is not envisaged at this stage to utilise poorly educated and minimally trained aides in areas where they cannot be supervised by police officers.

It is anticipated that police aides will first be used for law enforcement duties at Warrabri. This will be used as a model for progressive implementation of the scheme in other areas, including possibly Ngukurr. However, such a move will be contingent upon the establishment of a police station at Ngukurr, so that activities of the aides can be supervised.

458 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

When will Aboriginals use the motel they purchased in Katherine as a hostel instead of using hospital beds for overnight accommodation when requiring X-rays, etc?

ANSWER

The Aboriginal hostel in Katherine is operational and Aboriginals are taking advantages of the facility. The present accommodation is limited owing to renovations taking place on the premises. The available accommodation is fully utilised.

Aboriginals are not compelled to use the hostel, but it is available if the Health Department wishes to book Aboriginal patients in whilst awaiting such requirements as X-rays.

459 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Are pension and other cheques collected by Aboriginal associations instead of personally by the recipients?

Will identification be provided to enable Aboriginals to be identified when collecting their mail?

ANSWER

Social security benefits are addressed care of an Aboriginal organisation or association if the individual recipient so chooses and has signed a request through Social Security for the transfer.

The Kalano Association is an Aboriginal association which has the facility to provide assistance, such as social security welfare, to Aboriginal people. The premises have been designed to accommodate a social welfare section, and the staff have the expertise to provide the necessary assistance of the Northern Territory Division of the Department of Social Security.

The cheques are given to the Aboriginal beneficiaires personally, and no pressure is placed on anyone to use the benefit in any specific way.

The Yulngu Association provides a wide range of services to a number of remote communities. If so requested by a group or community, the association arranges for benefit cheques to be placed in a trust account. These accounts are then used according to the directions of the group concerned, which normally allocates a certain amount for the regular year-round supply of food items.

When it is necessary to provide corroborative identification of an Aboriginal person for any purpose whatsoever, the DAA area officer or officers of the Kalano Association are available to do so.

461 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it envisaged that the Donkey Camp will satisfy Katherine's requirements for soft water for all time, or is this proposal part of an undisclosed plan by the Northern Territory government to provide water for irrigation, hydro-electric power and drinking?

ANSWER

The Donkey Camp water supply scheme is expected to provide sufficient water for the town of Katherine for the next 20 years at least. However, it is difficult to predict accurately future trends in population and water use, so the situation has to be kept under constant review. Also it is necessary to monitor the behaviour of the water source so that hydrological and environmental predictions can be checked. Thus it is always possible that development of a further supply may be necessary earlier than now expected.

The government is well aware of the long-term prospects for a dam above the gorge and the potential this has for flood mitigation, hydro-electric power and irrigation water as well as drinking water. The cost of a dam would be very high, and at present we have no firm plans for such a development. The present Donkey Camp scheme would, however, fit in well with such a scheme, by providing a suitable point from which to draw water without the need for a costly pipeline from the dam.

463 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

When does the contract of the Public Service Commissioner expire?

ANSWER

The Public Service Commissioner is not employed under contract. The Administrator, under section 6(2) of the Public Service Act, appoints a person to be commissioner. Mr Campbell was appointed by the Administrator for an initial period which expires on 31.12.80.

465 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of the problems being caused in Katherine and other centres by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs policy of regulating the use of social service cheques to promote separate sales outlets for the purchase of supplies by Aborigines and, if so, will he ask the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to allow Aborigines to choose where they spend their money?

ANSWER

I am not aware of a policy of regulating the use of social service cheques and I direct the honourable member's attention to the answer provided by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, to his question 459. Should he require any further information on this matter, I suggest he might write to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs or the Minister for Social Security as the payment of Social Security benefits are a direct Commonwealth responsibility.

466 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he ascertain from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs who authorised the Yulnyu Association to collect social security cheques from Aboriginals at Djembere (Duck Creek), the deduction of amounts necessary to pay for goods purchased on their behalf by the Baruwei Association and the payment of the balance to the Aboriginals concerned?

ANSWER

I believe this question has been answered in replies to question 459 and 465 from the honourable member.

467 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Does the travelling allowance of $22.50 per day paid to employees under NT Public Service By-law 37(3) represent the amount they are expected to pay for other than motel or hotel accommodation and, if so, are employees instructed to offer this amount to their hosts at stations, Aboriginal communities or "flying camps"?

ANSWER

The amount of $22.50 per day is paid to employees who are required to stay overnight at localities where commercial accommodation is not available, whether at a station, Aboriginal community or flying camp.

Employees have not been instructed to offer this amount to their hosts just as they are not instructed to offer a particular amount to hotel, motel or lodging-house-keepers where commercial accommodation is available.

It is, of course, the prerogative of hosts to charge for accommodation and the amount is paid to our employees to cover the many and varied situations involved in reimbursing their hosts or in providing their own food in circumstances where commercial accommodation is not available.

468 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is the proposal to take water from the Donkey Camp at Katherine designed only to overcome the problem of mineralised water or is it part of a larger scheme to provide water for irrigation and hydro-electric power?

ANSWER

I respectfully suggest that this matter is one for consideration by my colleague the Minister for Transport and Works.

469 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to the hundred or so caravans parked during the wet season at Katherine in school grounds, at the Health Department, around shops and on industrial blocks and ask: is it the government's intention to allow this practice to continue or will the government force the owners of the vans to use the licensed caravan parks in the town?

ANSWER

The only caravan parked in school grounds in Katherine is at the Katherine South Primary School and it is used by the janitor/caretaker employed by the Department of Education. The Department of Health has only 2 caravans parked in Katherine. One is the mobile dental clinic which is parked in Katherine when not in use in the field, and the other is used as a residence by 2 Department of Health employees who fulfill a caretaker role. They are soon to be allocated a house and the van will be removed.

The number of vans parked near shops on industrial blocks is unknown. Very few complaints have been received by the Department of Lands and Housing that the parking of vans is causing problems.

The problem of caravans parked on land other than licensed caravan parks is common to all Northern Territory centres. The government is taking action under existing legislation to deter the practice and is investigating the inclusion of suitable clauses in the new town plans for the various centres to control the use of caravans. In particular, default action is being taken on leases and is meeting with some degree of success. The co-operation of the Housing Commission is also being sought to prevent vans occupying Commission sites.

471 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Does the NT government recognise the inadequacy of the sitting fee of $10 per hour for members of the Town Planning Board when the board travels to towns such as Katherine where it may only sit for one hour during a round trip that may take 12 hours?

2. Does it also recognise that the case is exacerbated when the board goes on to Tennant Creek from Katherine thereby entailing a further lengthy travelling period?

3. Does the minister expect to retain competent members with the requisite abilities to complete their tasks on this level of remuneration?

4. Is it the intention of the minister to have the meal allowance of $2.50 increased now that steak costs $7.00 per kilogram?

ANSWER

1. In the determination by the Administrator of 12 February 1979, determining fees and allowances payable to statutory authorities, b(i) allows that travelling time be paid to members of the authority travelling to and from meetings. If the Town Planning Board travels to Katherine for a short meeting, members would be paid the daily rate of $54.00 to cover time spent in travelling.

2. All time spent by members of the board travelling to and from other centres in the Territory is reimbursed, either by the payment of $10.00 per hour if 4 hours or less are involved, or the daily rate of $54.00.

3. No. Fees and allowances are under review.

4. Meal allowance at a set rate is not payable to members of the Town Planning Board. Travelling allowance of $45.00 per day is payable when travel to other centres in the Territory is involved. Costs incurred at meal break of an evening meeting is reimbursed on production of a receipt.

476 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

On what basis are Housing Commission dwellings in Nhulunbuy being allocated?

ANSWER

Twenty houses will shortly be completed and allocation will take place in accordance with the policy approved by Commission members on 7 December 1978, which is as follows:

(i) families with 3 or more children to be housed first;

(ii) families with 2 children to be housed next in order of date of application;

(iii) thereafter, houses to be allocated in order of date of application.

Any new applicants since 7 December 1978 will be housed in order of date of application. There is, however, provision for giving priority allocation to families with proven hardship and responsibility for 2 or more children.

480 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What arrangements are being made to ensure that noise from the operation of the new government printery on the Stuart Highway at Parap will not disturb residents?

2. What hours is it anticipated that the printery will operate?

3. Is a generator provided at the establishment and, if so, will it be operating full-time or for emergencies only?

4. What arrangements have been made to ensure that the noise of the generator does not disturb local residents?

ANSWER

1. Noise generated within the new government printery by day to day operations is confined within the building and will therefore not disturb local residents. The only normal noise outside the building is from the air-conditioning unit and vehicles entering and leaving the premises. Noise from the air-conditioner is low enough to be drowned out by normal traffic noise from the Stuart Highway.

2. Hours are 7.30 am to 4.00 pm, Monday to Friday. Some overtime is worked on weekdays and Saturday mornings, but premises are usually vacated by 7.00 pm weekdays. When the house is sitting, limited numbers of staff may be required to work overtime to 11.00 pm.

3. An emergency generator is provided in the new premises. This generator will only run for testing purposes and when main supply fails.

4. An acoustic barrier, to meet the requirements of Australian standard number 1055 "Noise Assessment in Residential Areas", to reduce the noise emission from the generator reaching the boundary of the adjoining properties to the permissible level is to be erected following further noise level studies currently being undertaken.

481 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What were the circumstances at Urapunga Station during Easter when an Aboriginal ceremonial was interrupted by a tribesman innocently fishing from a dinghy fitted with an outboard motor?

2. In what manner did the Aborigines act towards the fisherman and in what way did they request the fisherman to depart?

3. Was damage caused to the boat and equipment and will prosecutions result?

4. Was the site of the fracas on a pastoral lease adjoining a river or on a reserve?

ANSWER

There was such an incident at Urapunga Station during Easter. The matter was reported to the police, but no action was requested and no action is contemplated. Any further information required should be sought from the persons involved in the incident.

483 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Will the Aboriginal community at Duck Creek (Djembere) be connected to the power supply from Mataranka power station?

2. If so, who will guarantee to pay Elecom the costs of line erection, maintenance and power used?

ANSWER

1. No. The community at Duck Creek (Djembere or Djimbra) is to be supplied with electricity. However, the supply is to come from 2 16 kilowatt Ford Dunlite generating sets which will be located at Duck Creek.

2. The work of installing the power supply system at Duck Creek will be undertaken by the Department of Transport and Works on behalf of the

Department of Community Development. The project is expected to cost about $34,000 and is to be funded by the inclusion of a supplementary item in the 1978-79 Northern Territory Civil Works Program. The costs of maintenance of the supply network will be borne by the Department of Community Development.

The matter of service charges in respect of water, electricity, etc, supplied at Aboriginal communities is one which the Department of Community Development is investigating. At present, I am unable to say whether that department will make any attempt to recover from consumers the costs of power used by members of the Duck Creek community. The government has yet to determine the amounts and methods of levying such charges.

487 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will the decision to build all houses at ground level affect Katherine which is flood prone and cyclone free?

ANSWER

Northern Territory Housing Commission general public and staff housing will be at ground level except in flood prone areas, where it has been the Commission policy to elevate the houses. This policy will continue, and therefore, housing in flood prone areas in Katherine will be elevated.

489 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that 14 meat exporters have requested information on service facilities to kill and process beef in the Northern Territory as stated by the Secretary of the Cattlemen's Union of Australia, Katherine Branch, at an industry meeting in Katherine on Saturday 27 April 1979?

ANSWER

The Secretary of the Cattlemen's Union, Katherine Branch, indicated during discussion that approximately 14 enquiries for NT beef from southern buyers had been brought to her notice. These buyers had indicated a preference for this beef to be service-killed in the Territory rather than freight live cattle south. Most buying is at present for the domestic market.

490 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In view of the obvious requirement for processing facilities for beef owned by interests other than meatworks licensees, will he make funds available to enable interested parties to supply this requirement?

ANSWER

The financing facilities of the TDC are available to assist where justified in developing these and other similar projects in the Northern Territory.

491 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the manager of Katherine meatworks indicated that his facilities would not be available for use as service works to kill and process cattle for outside interests?

ANSWER

The Katherine meatworks are not required to kill and process cattle for outside interests unless they choose to do so.

492 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. How much has been spent by the NT government on the experimental cropping program in the Katherine and Daly River areas?

2. What is the amount received by the NT government by way of sales of the crops?

3. Has an analysis been made of the cropping program?

4. If so, what are the results?

ANSWER

1. I believe that the question refers to the Cropping Development Scheme which has been undertaken as a joint government/farmer exercise aimed at promoting cropping in the Northern Territory.

   So far payment of $13,903.50 has been made by way of freight subsidy on fertilisers. Other payments for an aircraft ferry fee subsidy, transport subsidy, and insurance covering some failed crops can be expected. In addition, loans totalling $154,000 have been made by the NT Development Corporation to the NT Producers' Co-operative for provision of infra-structure.

   A further loan of $30,000 to the Producers' Co-operative by the NT Development Corporation to enable a first advance payment on crops will be made.

2. This scheme did not envisage government acquisition of crops produced. All sales are being handled by the NT Producers' Co-operative on behalf of growers.

   The only revenue the NT government will receive, will be by way of crops grown on research stations, and sold through the scheme. No payments for these have yet been received.

3. The Cropping Development Committee which oversights the scheme, is preparing a report on the results of the program. Interim conclusions will be discussed at a meeting of farmers in Katherine on 19 June.

4. A final report with all results documented will not be possible until all sales have been cleared and payments received by growers.

493 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What equipment has been installed in the Alice Springs abattoir to overcome obnoxious smells from the abattoir?

2. What is the capital cost and installation cost?

3. Does the equipment comply with Department of Health requirements?

4. Does the equipment comply with Department of Industrial Development requirements?

5. What is causing the smell emanating from the vicinity of the abattoirs?

6. What steps have been taken to date to eradicate the smell?

7. Why was the Alice Springs abattoir allowed to be built so close to residential land?

8. What would be the cost of re-siting the abattoirs?

ANSWER

1. To retain its export licence the abattoir must comply with and main-
- tain the very stringent health and hygiene standards set by the United
6. States Department of Agriculture and supervised by the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry. The very nature of abattoir operations means that smells are inevitable particularly where cookers are used. Cooking odours are reduced by means of scrubbers and these have been installed at an estimated cost of $10,000.

7. The abattoir was constructed in 1970 on a site to the west of the town and well removed from the then existing residential areas. The prevailing winds in the region are from the south-east.

8. It is estimated that a minimum of $6m would be required to build an export abattoir with the same slaughtering capacity.

524 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the Brands Register has been awaiting publication for 3 years?

ANSWER

The Brands Directory has been published. It is being distributed to relevant government organisations and is available to the public.

525 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Does freeze-dried beef come under special beef imports when sent to Japan, thus attracting no quota?

ANSWER

Freeze-dried beef falls into the "Processed Meats" category of exports and therefore is not subject to quota.

526 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is there need for service facilities for local consumption at licensed abattoirs, and service facilities for export at export meatworks?

ANSWER

Abattoirs within "licensed abattoir areas" must provide a service kill for local consumption and abattoirs outside "licensed abattoir areas" may provide a service-kill if the works conform to the 4th Schedule of the Abattoir and Slaughtering Act. The market determines the need.

Abattoirs slaughtering for export are under no compulsion to offer service-kill facilities under the above-mentioned Act but are obliged to where the AMLC determines a set of scheduled prices under which they could operate. The need for the facility rests on the degree of producer support and its likely long term viability.

527 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

(a) Will he investigate the complaint by Mr R.N. Thompson of lot 1198, Fuller Crescent, Katherine, that late reading of his water-meter put him into a higher category for excess water charges?

(b) Will he endeavour that all water-meters are read by 30 June each year?

ANSWER

(a) Mr Thompson's complaint has been investigated and the assessment found to be in accordance with the provisions of the Water Supply (Terms and Conditions of Supply) Regulations. The method of calculation has been explained to Mr Thompson.

(b) The size of the task of meter reading is such that it is impossible to read all meters in the Northern Territory on 30 June each year without the employment of a large number of meter readers. This point was recognised in the preparation of the Water Supply (Terms and Conditions of Supply) Regulations when a time lapse of 2 months was allowed for the meters to be read. It is not considered that this incurs any disadvantage for consumers as the interval between reading does not usually vary by more than a few days. That means that any higher consumption in one year is compensated for by a lower consumption in the next (or vice versa).

528 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(a) Do local residents receive priority in the allocation of pensioner units?

(b) Do pensioners benefit from the same considerations (such as zone allowance) as public servants?

(c) How much has been allocated to the Old Pioneers Home at Katherine over the last 10 years?

ANSWER

(a) The Northern Territory Housing Commission has advised me that local residents do not receive priority in the allocation of pensioners units. The waiting list for these units is based on date of application. Anyone on this waiting list can apply for priority by stating their reasons for special consideration. This provision applies to local residents as well as anyone else who may make application.

(b) As previously advised in question no. 484.

(c) The Department of Social Security granted a subsidy of $8,350 in 1958 to the Old Pioneers Home for the building of 8 self-contained units. There has been no further subsidy allocated since that time.

529 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will he investigate why an officer of the Education Department who performed her duties for almost 4 years in the Katherine office was replaced by another applicant for the position?

ANSWER

I have investigated and am satisifed that the selection and promotion of the appointee was carried out correctly and without animosity or prejudice.

530 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

What steps does the government take to pay its bill when unfortunate computer breakdowns or human errors cause embarrassment to its creditors?

ANSWER

In the event of a computer breakdown, steps are taken to minimise delay in the payment of creditors' accounts. Such a breakdown does not prevent cheques being drawn but holds up the normal accounting action whereby it is verified that funds are available under the relevant appropriation to meet the expenditure involved. On these occasions of computer breakdown, departments are contacted by telephone and special clearances obtained to release the cheques in advance of the normal accounting action.

532 Mr PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Can he supply information regarding the Pioneer Cropping Scheme?

(b) What provisions have been made to receive these crops?

(c) What policy or procedure has been provided to market, or assist in the marketing of, these crops?

ANSWER

(a) The Pioneer Cropping Scheme, is a scheme devised and operated by a joint government/farmer committee to promote field crop industry/development in the Northern Territory.

The Northern Territory Cabinet approved the establishment of the scheme for an initial one-year period and provided capital for machinery purchase and infra-structure development by the NT Producers Co-operative, insurance for farmers, and subsidies on fertiliser freight and aircraft ferry fees.

The crops being grown under the scheme include peanuts, mung beans, maize and grain sorghum.

Farmers in the scheme are obliged to market their produce through the NT Producers Co-operative.

Officers of the Division of Primary Industry, Department of Industrial Development and the NT Development Corporation are heavily involved in supporting the scheme through extension and research service and through the joint government/farmer committee.

(b) A series of silos have been erected at the NT Producers Co-operative, Adelaide River, to receive the crop.

(c) Marketing of crops will be done through the NT Producers Co-operative. The NT Producers Co-operative is obtaining finance from the NT Development Corporation to enable a first advance to be paid to growers. Final payment will be made on sale of the crop.

533 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he allocate funds for the provision of a domestic satellite to ensure outback Territorians get reasonable radio, telephone and television reception?

ANSWER

The Federal Minister for Posts and Telecommunications recently announced that the estimated cost of a domestic satellite system to service outback areas of Australia is $600m. As far as can be ascertained, no detailed studies have been done for a system to provide a similar service solely to the Northern Territory. However, based on geographic areas, it is apparent that a significant proportion of the $600m would be required for a Northern Territory system.

Such an amount would be out of the question considering the Northern Territory government's limited financial resources.

Therefore, I regret that the answer to the question must be no.

534 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will he investigate whether a dam above the thirteenth level at Katherine Gorge woule enable more "flood prone" land to be used for industrial, commercial and residential purposes in Katherine?

ANSWER

I respectfully suggest that this matter is one for consideration by my colleague the Minister for Transport and Works.

566 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many (a) pistols, (b) high powered firearms are currently licensed in the Northern Territory?

2. How many firearms have been registered in each of the past 2 years?

3. How many firearms does the Registrar of Firearms estimate are currently owned in the Northern Territory?

4. How many deaths, violent or otherwise, have occurred involving firearms in each of the past 2 years including the current year to date?

5. How many injuries involving firearms, violent or otherwise, have occurred in each of the past 2 years, including the current year to date?

ANSWER

1. (a) There are 1,889 pistols currently licensed in the Northern Territory to expire on 30 June 1979.

   (b) There are 699 high-powered firearms currently licensed in the Northern Territory to expire on 30 June 1979.

2. Year ending 30 June 1977: there were 11,133 low-powered firearms registered in the Northern Territory.

   Year ending 30 June 1978: there were 5,591 low-powered firearms regisered in the Northern Territory.

Total 1977 and 1978: 16,724.

3. There are approximately 150,000 low-powered firearms recorded on file in the Firearms Recording Section, Darwin. However, a rough estimate would be approximately 60,000 firearms currently owned in the Northern Territory, the rest being interstate, overseas or destroyed.

4. Deaths which have occurred in the Northern Territory:

   1977 - 9
   1978 - 15
   1979 - 6 up to 8 June 1979.

5. Injuries which have occurred in the Northern Territory:

   1977 - 5
   1978 - 9
   1979 - 5 up to 8 June 1979.

586 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the Northern Territory Electricity Commission considered damming Katherine Gorge for hydro-electric purposes and, if so, what conclusions were reached?

2. What are the projected electricity requirements of the area which could be served with power from the gorge and for how long would a hydro-electric scheme be able to cater for those needs?

ANSWER

This matter does not fall within my portfolio. I suggest it be referred to the Minister for Mines and Energy.

588 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Does he accept the fact that it is a responsibility of his department to maintain information on Territory meat exports and, if so, is it not also the responsibility of his department to investigate allegations made by members of the Legislative Assembly about processors and exporters engaging in practices detrimental to Territory producers and to take steps to protect the interests of those producers?

ANSWER

(a) It is the responsibility of my department to maintain information on Territory meat exports. However, I must point out that much of this information is confidential between the AMLC and exporters and is not generally available.

(b) It is not the responsibility of my department to investigate allegations made by one sector of the industry against another as the department has no legislative powers in this regard.

589 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What efforts has he made to interest meat processors in training and employing local labour in all facets of meatworks operations?

ANSWER

The government would look sympathetically at any request from meat processors to assist in the training and employing of local labour. No such request has yet been made to government.

591 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware of the concern of cattlemen that cattle weigh heavier and yield higher after arduous transport by road and rail to the eastern seabord than they weigh at Katherine, and that the difference more than pays the higher freight costs and, if so, what does he propose to do about it?

ANSWER

I am aware of claims made that cattle yield better at eastern seaboard meatworks but I have not seen any objective evidence to support these claims. I am also aware of the price difference between Northern Territory and eastern meatworks and I consider that this must relate to the competitive advantages of the eastern meatworks through a greater diversity of available market outlets.

592 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

(a) Is he aware of allegations that 100 caravans are being used outside caravan parks in Katherine?

(b) Does the Northern Territory government concede that with no serviced land available this practice is justified?

(c) Will the government concede that with flood mitigation action above the Katherine Gorge much land in an around Katherine now labelled "flood prone" could be utilized for residential and commercial use?

ANSWER

(a) There are known to be significant numbers of backyard caravans in all Territory centres, however, the precise number of vans in Katherine has not been ascertained by survey.

(b) There are 18 serviced residential sites available in Katherine. Eight of these lots are soon to be released at auction and the balance of available sites are to be allocated to the Northern Territory Housing Commission. The construction of a new caravan park with approximately 96 sites will help reduce the incidence of caravans in backyards.

(c) The government is not at present considering any flood mitigation action above the Katherine Gorge. Any flood mitigation action above the gorge could only be considered as part of an overall project concerned with water supply and electricity generation. Further development in the Katherine area is to be located on high ground to the east of the existing town. This area is unaffected by flood problems and future development is being encouraged here so as not to aggravate existing problems. The Department of Lands and Housing is currently looking into the general problem of "flood prone areas" with the aim of formulating a policy for the commercial and residential development of such areas throughout the Northern Territory.

593 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Is he satisfied that the special export quota granted to William

Angliss as operator of a North Australian export works has been used as intended by the Australian Meat Board?

(b) How did William Angliss use the special export quota of 2,000 tons during the closure of the company's Darwin works?

(c) Was this quota used for Vestey cattle going through other service meatworks.

ANSWER

(a) Yes.

(b) The operation of a quota granted to a meat exporter is confidential between the AMLC and that exporter.

(c) Yes.

594 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) What action is the government taking to protect beef producers against arbitrary trim for fat and bruising?

(b) What action is the government taking to ensure beef producers' interests are protected by the installation of electronic scales at all NT killing facilities?

ANSWER

(a) The NT government has sought, through the expansion of outlets for NT beef, to provide cattlemen with a choice based on free competition between these outlets. Additionally, the department has undertaken an extension campaign using AMLC and locally produced information with the aim of trying to prevent as much bruising as possible in the handling and transport of stock.

(b) The government considers that carcass classification trials being conducted throughout Australia, and shortly in the NT, will identify the need for further facilities to protect producers' interests.

595 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has the Northern Territory government investigated the desirability of trading beef with South-East Asian countries for petroleum, fertiliser and timber and, if so, with what result?

ANSWER

No consideration has yet been given on a government level to bilateral trade arrangements of the type referred to by the honourable member.

596 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Has his department investigated the use of tender stretch or similar tenderising processes or will the Darwin housewife have to rely on imported beef for tender beef?

2. Has any effort been made to ensure chefs, cooks and housewives are educated in choosing suitable beef for particular cooking processes?

ANSWER

1. No.

2. The Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation has undertaken considerable promotion to educate housewives in selecting meat for cooking processes.

597 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTIRAL DEVELOPMENT

Will the Northern Territory government issue an indicative price as a guide to producers desirous of getting top prices for their beef?

ANSWER

My department will not publish an indicative prive because it will vary between abattoirs depending on efficiency, carcass weight/grade and market outlets. Thus it would be necessary to prepare an indicative price schedule rather than one indicative prive.

Most farmers now receive the AMLC meat market notes, have access to published price reports and can discuss the matter with agents. If these sources are utilised effectively, they are considered adequate.

598 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) What is the AMIEU view on the proposition for 2 shifts to operate meatworks?

(b) Does he know if the processors believe that the provision of extra freezing and chilling space would be justified?

ANSWER

(a) I understand that the AMIEU has not formally considered such a proposal.

(b) A decision of this nature would be based upon demonstrated needs.

599 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

How can the wide price difference paid for cattle in South Australia and the Top End be justified when the end product is sold at the same price to the consumer on the US market?

ANSWER

The major factors influencing the difference in prices paid in South Australia and the Top End are differences in the quality of the cattle offered and the structure of the markets which differ in the degree of competition among bidders for the various outlets.

600 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

(a) When will the road to Edith Falls be in suitable condition for use by conventional vehicles, including tourist coaches?

(b) Has he plans to seal this road?

ANSWER

The access road to Edith Falls has recently been graded and is suitable for use by conventional light vehicles. A new route, which is expected to deviate substantially from the existing road, is currently being investigated and ground surveys are under way.

I cannot anticipate when the project will attain program status. However, it is possible to stage construct the road, with the first stage being to gravelled standard.

601 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What assistance is the Northern Territory government providing to Mount Isa Mines to enable it to overcome its problems with the ore body at MacArthur River?

ANSWER

Problems with the ore body are mainly metallurgical which the company are attempting to overcome, not only be expertise from within their own organisation at Mt Isa and Brisbane, but from research institutions in Australia and overseas. During the last 18 years assistance has been sought from over 70 such institutions.

Unfortunately, there are no organisations or facilities in the Northern Territory which could be of assistance or attempt to match the work already undertaken.

Two officers from my department and one from the Chief Minister's Department are to visit the company in Brisbane during the week of 4 June to examine a proposed feasibility report due to be released at the end of July. Examination of associated research records and discussions on future development proposals with a view to the re-negotiation of their contract, previously with the Commonwealth, will also be undertaken.

630 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

It was reported in the Adelaide "News" on Monday 30 April 1979, that a Mrs Kathy Strehlow "had been appointed a special adviser to the Northern Territory on Aboriginal land rights".

(a) Is this report true?

(b) If so, when was Mrs Strehlow appointed to the position of special adviser on Aboriginal land rights and for what period of time will the appointment be effective?

(c) What salary or fees will be provided for Mrs Strehlow during her appointment?

(d) What specific qualifications does Mrs Strehlow have to fulfill such a position?

(e) What will be her duties and responsibilities in this position?

(f) Given that competent advisers on Aboriginal land rights already exist locally in Aboriginal communities, organisations and in the Chief Minister's Department, why was Mrs Strehlow appointed?

ANSWER

(a) No.

(b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) See above.

631 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(a) Is he aware that a carton of canned beer costs $19.50 at Top Springs and a can retails at $1?

(b) As the freight per carton is 50¢, will he have what appears to be a case of exorbitant charging investigated by the Consumer Affairs Council?

ANSWER

No. I was not aware of this, but officers of the Office of Consumer Affairs are doing a road tour to many of the remote communities in the Territory in June and Top Springs is included in the itinerary. They have been directed to investigate the price of many commodities, including beer.

I will inform you of the result of the investigations.

632 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

(a) Is it a fact that apprentices joing NT government departments are denied accommodation subsidy?

(b) As full board at Katherine Hostel is $53 and a first year apprentice's pay is $80, leaving a youth only $27 to live on for 7 days, will he take the matter up with the Public Service Commissioner to ensure that outback apprentices are not discriminated against?

ANSWER

(a) Apprentices joining NT government departments are not denied an accommodation subsidy if they fulfill the criteria of having to reside away from home in order to take up an apprenticeship. There is provision under the Northern Territory Public Service Act (By-law 53) for the Public Service Commissioner to approve an allowance in such circumstances for NT government employees including apprentices.

It is a matter of an application being made through the apprentice's department for determination by the Commissioner.

The Northern Territory Electricity Commission subsidises its apprentices in similar circumstances, their weekly accommodation subsidy is as follows:

1st year apprentice:	$40.25
2nd year apprentice:	$37.05
3rd year apprentice:	$40.65
4th year apprentice:	$25.90

(b) I am advised that 6 apprentices are accommodated at the Katherine Hostel. Five of these apprentices are employed by the Northern Territory

Electricity Commission and are in receipt of a subsidy because they are required to live away from home.

The remaining apprentice has been a Katherine resident for approximately 8 years and was successful in obtaining an apprenticeship with the Department of Transport and Works in Katherine and commenced employment in February 1979.

I understand he does not qualify for the accommodation subsidy under the public Service By-laws because he was not required to live away from home in Katherine in order to take up his apprenticeship. At the time he obtained employment he was domiciled with his sister and her husband in Katherine and this arrangement has existed for some years. Recently he has transferred his lodgings to the Katherine Hostel.

However, I am advised he may be eligible for assistance under the Commonwealth Rebate for Apprentice Full-Time Traning (CRAFT) scheme which provides a subsidy for apprentices living away from home but with slightly different criteria for eligibility. The allowance under CRAFT is $21 per week in the first year of apprenticeship reducing to $8 per week in the second year.

Arrangements are being made for the apprentice to be advised of this information and to submit the necessary application to the Department of Employment and Youth Affairs.

Investigations have disclosed that the apprentice referred to above is the only apprentice apart from NTEC apprentices, employed by NT government departments who is living away from home and not receiving accommodation assistance.

If the honourable member for Elsey has information to the contrary of an apprentice employed by a NT government department not receiving accommodation subsidy but fulfilling the criteria under the Public Service By-laws and makes the details available, I will arrange for the case to be investigated.

633 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(a) Is he aware that his government is threatening legal action against the Girl Guides Association of Katherine to recover $123 owing for water rates, water account No. 501.71?

(b) Does he intend to investigate the reason why such a fine self-help body is reluctant to pay this account?

ANSWER

In answer to the question by the honourable member for Elsey regarding legal action to recover water rates being threatened against the Girl Guides Association of Katherine, I am informed that no such action has been initiated by the Department of Transport and Works.

Officers of the Department of Transport and Works are currently investigating the matter.

634 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has the Valuer-General valued the house at lot 3540 Basedow Street, Fannie Bay, which was purchased by the Northern Territory government for the interim manager of the Territory Insurance Office?

2. If so, on what date was the valuation made?

ANSWER

1. There is no property known as lot 3540 Basedow Street, Fannie Bay.

2. There is a property known as lot 2280 Basedow Street, Fannie Bay, which was purchased for the Territory Insurance Office. It was valued by the Valuer-General on or about 14 February 1979.

659 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What improved market information will become available to Northern Territory cattle producers following the Bureau of Agricultural Economics report on beef price stabilization?

ANSWER

The report of the BAE on beef stabilization will not of itself provide any improved marketing information for Northern Territory cattle producers.

684 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Is the Northern Territory government looking at the possibility of Tennant Creek meatworks licence being thrown open for tender again?

2. If so, will he explain why this is being considered and what the financial implications are for the Northern Territory government.

ANSWER

1. The issue of an export meatworks licence does not fall within the area of my responsibility.

2. Not relevant.

685 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

1. Will the Treasurer explain exactly how the proposed standby generators will be funded?

2. If he is unable to do so, can he indicate a date when he will be in a position to release full details?

ANSWER

The requirement to purchase standby generators for the Electricity Commission has been included in the Semi-Government Loan Program being submitted for the approval of the Australian Loan Council in respect of the 1979-80 financial year.

686 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Does he agree that Top End cattlemen are receiving less for their stock because Katherine meatworks is not a service abattoir?

2. If so, what is he doing to rectify this situation?

3. Does the minister agree that Katherine meatworks should be a service abattoir?

ANSWER

1. The availability of service-kill facilities would have no effect on prices received except where producers have negotiated alternative outlets and these buyers stipulate that cattle must be slaughtered in the Northern Territory. Competition in the market place determines prices.

2. Not relevant.

3. In the present circumstances it is not considered that Katherine meatworks should be a service-kill abattoir; the works is now killing to capacity and the main demand for service-kill operations is from buyers wishing to meet domestic market needs.

687 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many houses has the Northern Territory government bought from Mr Barry Wyatt?

2. Where are they located and how much did each cost?

3. Did these other houses have a certificate of compliance?

4. In the case of the Basedow Street house bought from Mr Wyatt, is the Northern Territory government aware that one potential buyer, a representative of an overseas government, said he would like a year's maintenance agreement from the vendor because he was not happy about the standard of the work in the building?

5. Who is now occupying the other Wyatt houses bought by the Northern Territory government?

6. Is it a fact that Mr Wyatt himself took the present occupant of the Basedow Street house for a tour of 3 houses, all of which belonged to him?

7. Was the present occupant of the Basedow Street house shown any other houses other than ones belonging to Mr Wyatt?

8. Can he confirm that it took 18 months to build the Basedow Street house?

ANSWER

1. The Northern Territory government, on behalf of the Territory Insurance Office, has bought one house from Barry Edward Wyatt and Elizabeth Joy Wyatt, his wife.

2. The house is located at lot 2880 Basedow Street, Fannie Bay and the purchase price was $87,000; however, with incidentals spent, such as curtains and air-conditioning, the price was brought up to $94,556.

3. No applicable.

4. The real estate agent for the property with whom the government dealt mentioned that the Indonesian government was interested in leasing the property but there was no mention of any purchase or other terms and conditions.

5. Not applicable.

6. The Minister for Lands and Housing is not in a position to advise what Mr Wyatt did and suggests that the Leader of the Opposition address the question to Mr Wyatt.

7. The present occupant of the Basedow Street house was shown a number of properties by the Property Section of the Department of Transport and Works.

8. The Minister for Lands and Housing is not in a position to answer this question and suggests that the Leader of the Opposition refer to the builder of the house for the information he seeks.

688 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. As he said in answer to a question in this House, executive houses built by the Northern Territory government cost about $89,000, will he list the executive houses completed and under construction since 1 July last?

2. In each case will he detail the exact cost of each executive house?

3. How many more executive homes will the Northern Territory government build over the next 2 years?

4. Who will occupy these houses?

ANSWER

1. & 2. A contract which was arranged by the Department of Construction for construction of 5 executive houses, was taken over by the NT Housing Commission at the beginning of the 1978-79 financial year. The builder defaulted and went into receivership and the project was let to other builders for completion which is anticipated within 6 weeks.

The combined contract price is $70,533 each for 2 houses located at lot 2600 Lantana Street, Nightcliff; and lot 4709 Progress Drive, Nightcliff.

The combined contract price is $60,540 each for 3 houses located at lot 3584 Alawa Crescent, Alawa; lot 3412 Stirling Court, Larrakeyah; and lot 4867 Myilly Terrace, Myilly Point.

A further contract was let in May 1979 for 6 executive houses for $60,000 each to be built at lot 5481 Cahill Crescent, Nakara; lot 323 Leviathan Court, Nakara; lot 5327 Macredie Street, Nakara; lot 1214 Teal Court, Wulagi; lot 3072 Parsons Street, Fannie Bay; and lot 3780 Packard Street, Larrakeyah.

Land costs are additional and generally are not advised until the houses are occupied. The values would vary widely.

3. The Northern Territory Housing Commission has 12 executive houses on its program for 1979-80: 2 in Alice Springs and 10 in Darwin. It is unlikely that further executive houses (under present terms and conditions) will be constructed due to the phasing out of staff housing and the closure of staff housing lists in Alice Springs and Darwin from 1 July 1981.

4. Executive houses will be allocated to executives (level E4 and above) in accordance with decisions made by the Housing Committee.

715 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Further to my question on notice number 342, what other functions has he requested be transferred from the Federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs to the Territory government?

2. Has a working party of Commonwealth and Territory government officials been established to examine the date of transfer of such functions and, if so, what is the composition of this working party?

3. What matters have been considered to date by the working party?

4. Will the views of Aboriginal communities and organisations throughout the Territory be sought regarding the transfer of further functions from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to the Territory government?

ANSWER

1. Culture, Sport and Recreation; Civil Works Projects; Town Management and Public Utilities; and Housing.

2. Yes. The working party consists of officers from the Commonwealth departments of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Finance, Aboriginal Affairs and from the Northern Territory government, departments of the Chief Minister, Treasury and Community Development and the Office of the Public Service Commissioner.

3. Matters relating to those functions mentioned above.

4. There will be widespread discussion with Aboriginal communities throughout the Northern Territory on the transfer of further functions.

716 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Has a special committee been established by the NT government to examine Aboriginal town lease applications before or after they are considered by the Town Planning Board?

2. If so, who are the members of this committee?

3. What is the role and purpose of this committee?

4. How many Aboriginal town lease applications have been examined by this committee to date?

5. What recommendations, if any, have been made by this committee to date?

6. Have similar committees been established to examine other applications by community groups for town leases?

ANSWER

1. Yes, the minister has established a committee of 3 senior public servants to advise him on applications for town leases made on a need basis.

2. C. Lovegrove, R. Fountain and I. Barker, QC.

4. Advise the Minister

4.
& Advice to Minister is confidential.
5.

6. No.

717 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Is it a fact that a request by the Tangatjira Council, on behalf of the Parentja Association, for an electricity meter to be connected, at what is known as the Old Timer's Home Aboriginal camp in Alice Springs, was refused by the Electricity Commission?

2. If so, why was the request refused?

ANSWER

It is not correct that the Electricity Commission refused a request by the Tangatjira Council on behalf of the Parentja Association for connection of Electricity to the area known as the Old Times' Home Aboriginal Camp in Alice Springs.

The Commission received an application for supply in August 1978 from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Panel and was advised by the Town Planning Branch that at that time an application for a lease was subject to consideration by the Town Planning Board and that the matter was not resolved. Accordingly, the Commission held the application and wrote to the Housing Panel on 14 September 1978 advising that the Commission would await advice from the Town Planning Board.

Following approval of the allocation of a lease by the Minister for Lands and Housing on 30 April 1979 and subject to Town Planning Board zoning consideration the application for supply is now being processed.

718 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What assistance is provided by NT government surveyors to Aboriginal groups, such as the Tangatjira Council, to survey land in the Alice Springs area for town lease claims?

2. How many government surveyors are employed and based at Alice Springs to assist Aboriginal groups and other community groups to survey land?

3.(a) Has there been any scaling down of the assistance provided by government surveyors since the NT government took over responsibility?

(b) If so, why?

ANSWER

1. Surveyors and other staff of the Department of Lands and Housing in Alice Springs are available to give assistance to Aboriginal groups and any other members of the community wishing to apply for land in Alice Springs. The forms of assistance are:

(a) identifying the land sought;

(b) providing sketches of that land;

(c) on site inspections; and

(d) types of tenures and conditions available.

The boundaries are not surveyed prior to granting of a claim but corners can be identified if considered necessary. Once the claim is approved by the minister then survey for title proposed is carried out by surveyors of this department.

2. There are 7 land surveyors employed in the Department of Lands and Housing in Alice Springs together with all necessary support staff.

3. (a) After 1 July 1978 the Commonwealth Survey Office insisted upon and undertook it as their responsibility to assist Aboriginal groups to make claims. The Department of Lands and Housing now provides this assistance which is the same as that provided to any member of the public.

   (b) See the answer to question 3(a).

721 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Who are the members of each statutory authority under the minister's responsibility?

2. How much is paid to each member by way of sitting fees and other allowances?

ANSWER

1. The statutory authorities which are currently the responsibility of the Chief Minister as well as members' names, are appended herewith.

Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission

Mr T. Hare, Chairman	Mr J. Hauser
Mr I. Barker	Mr B. Litchfield
Prof. B. Ovington	Mr W. Mawunydjil

Territory Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council

Mr T. Hare, Chairman	Mr M. Stewart
Miss D.M. Byrnes	Mr R.N.D. Miller
Mr V.T. O'Brien	Mr H. Adams

Soil Conservation Advisory Committee

Mr P. Aland, Chairman	Mr J. Fisher
Mr C. Wood	Mr A.D.L. Hooper
Mr V. Wasilewsky	Mr A. Hagan
Mr R. Townsend	Mr C. Connellan
Mr R. Hersey	

Jabiru Town Development Authority

Mr E.J. Simpson, Chairman	Mr W. Hull
Mr C. Fuller	Mr J. Larcombe
Mr D. Woods	Mr A. McIntosh
Mr A. Blain	

2. Sitting fees and other allowances paid to members of the first 3 statutory authorities are standard in accordance with the Administrator's Determination (Fees and Allowance payable to Members of Certain Statutory Authorities) of 26 March 1979 (see below).

The members of the Jabiru Town Development Authority do not receive sitting fees or allowances, however, the authority does reimburse expenses incurred in relation to meetings.

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

DETERMINATION BY ADMINISTRATOR

FEES AND ALLOWANCES PAYABLE TO MEMBERS OF CERTAIN STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

I, JOHN ARMSTRONG ENGLAND, the Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia, acting with the advice of the Executive Council and in pursuance of my powers under each of the Acts or the regulations listed in column 1 of the Schedule -

(a) revoke all previous determinations of fees and allowances payable to the Chairman and members of each of the statutory authorities listed in column 2 of the Schedule; and

(b) determine that, except in the case of a Chairman or a member who is a Judge of the Supreme Court, a magistrate, an officer or employee of the Australian Public Service or an employee of the Public Service of the Northern Territory -

(i) the fee payable to the Chairman or a member of a statutory authority listed in column 2 of the Schedule in respect of each day on which he attends a meeting of the statutory authority or is engaged, with the prior approval of the statutory authority, on business of that authority or travels to or from such a meeting or in connection with such business, shall be, in the case of the Chairman, $60 or, in the case of another member, $54 provided that in respect of any day on which such meeting or such business does not continue for longer than 4 hours, the fee payable to the Chairman or a member, if that person resides in the locality where the meeting is held or the business is conducted shall be an amount calculated, in the case of a Chairman, at the rate of $12 per hour or part thereof or, in the case of another member, at the rate of $10 per hour or part thereof;

(ii) the allowance payable to the Chairman or a member of a statutory authority listed in column 2 of the Schedule who is required by the business of the statutory authority to stay overnight at a place other than his place of residence shall be $45 for each such night; and

(iii) a statutory authority listed in column 2 of the Schedule may pay such transport expenses including fares at first-class rates as, in the opinion of the statutory authority, are reasonably incurred by the Chairman or a member in attending a meeting of , or in connection with business of, the statutory authority.

Dated this 26th day of March 1979.

(Sgd) J.A. ENGLAND
Administrator

By His Honour Command P.A.E. EVERINGHAM
Chief Minister

SCHEDULE

ACTS, REGULATIONS AND STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

Column 1 Act or regulations	Column 2 Statutory authority
Architects Act	Northern Territory Architects Board
Building Act	Building Board
Bush Fire Control Act	Bush Fires Council
Bush Fires Control Act	Regional Fire Control Committee Alice Springs East Alice Springs West Elliott-Wauchope Gulf Northern Victoria River Barkly Tablelands
Child Welfare Act	Child Welfare Council
Consumer Protection Act	Consumer Affairs Council
Crown Lands Act	Land Board of the Northern Territory
Electricity Commission Act	Northern Territory Electricity Commis Commission
Electrical Workers and Contractors Act	Electrical Workers and Contractors Licensing Board
Housing Act	Housing Commission
Lottery and Gaming Act	Racing and Gaming Commission
Museums and Art Galleries Act	Museums and Art Galleries Board
Place Names Act	Place Names Committee
Ports Act	Northern Territory Port Authority
Road Safety Council Act	Road Safety Council of the Northern Territory
Sewerage Regulations	Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Board
Soil Conservation and Land Utilization Act	Soil Conservation Advisory Committee
Territory Development Act	Northern Territory Development Corporation
Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act	Territory Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council
Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act	Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission
Tourist Board Act	Northern Territory Tourist Board
Town Planning Act	Town Planning Appeal Committee
Town Planning Act	Town Planning Board
Veterinary Surgeons Act	Veterinary Surgeons Board of the Northern Territory

722 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Who are the members of each statutory authority under the minister's responsibility?

2. How much is paid to each member by way of sitting fees and other allowances?

ANSWER

1. The members of each statutory authority under my responsibility for Department of Transport and Works and for the Northern Territory Port Authority are:

Northern Territory Port Authority

Arthur, W.S., Chairman	Trippe, A.S., Deputy Chairman
Milner, Captain T., Member	Wyatt, B., Member
Dabovich, P., Member	Warman, P.A.J., General Manager

Plumbers and Drainers' Licensing Board

Freeman, W.G., Member	Riley, B.D., Chairman
Webb, A.R., Member	Wijenayake, K.P.A. De S., Member

Road Safety Council of the Northern Territory

Burgess, W.M., Chairman	Hewitt, J.V., Deputy Chairman
Dogson, C.H., Member	Ebrall, P.S., Member
Firmin, C.C., Member	Goss, S.A., Member
Grove, J.M., Member	Harris, R.J., Member
Otley, W.T., Member	Pendlebury, T.R., Member
Preston, B.O., Member	Winckler, C.P., Member

Bush Fires Council

Landsdowne, K., Chairman	Hauser, J.P., Deputy Chairman
Marson, P.J.W., Member	Sullivan, J.M., Member
Bird, F., Member	Waudby, W.J., Member
Clauson, P., Member	Joseland, D., Member
Underwood, J., Member	Falls, R., Member
Holtham, P.D., Member	Darben, D.F., Member

Regional Fire Control Committees

Northern Regional Fire Control Committee:	Hayes, J.E., Chairman Garrard, A., Member Fox, R., Member Lugg, J., Member
Victoria River District Fire Control Committee:	Watts, C.T., Chairman Fogarty, L.L., Member. Underwood, P.J., Member Hayes, R., Member Dayes, C.J., Member
Gulf Regional Fire Control Committee:	Greig, J.R., Chairman McColm, A.R., Deputy Chairman Anlezark, K.J., Member MacFarlane, A.S., Member

Elliott-Wauchope Regional Fire Control Committee:	Clauson, P.A., Chairman Doran, T.J., Deputy Chairman Hagan, A.J., Member Beebe, R.A., Member Hagan, J.P., Member
Barkly Tablelands Regional Fire Control Committee:	Perriman, J.W., Chairman Warriner, K., Deputy Chairman Joseland, D., Member McQueen, O.G., Member Jansen, R.F., Member
Alice Springs East Fire Control Committee:	Bird, J.F., Chairman Hayes, E., Member Heaslip, G.F., Member Smith, F.L., Member Simpson, W.F., Member
Alice Springs West Fire Control Committee:	Bird, J.F., Chairman Smith, C.D.R., Deputy Chairman Chisholm, D.A., Member Waudby, W.J., Member

2. Fees and allowances paid to members are in accordance with a determination by the Administrator, signed on 12 February 1979. The determination allows for payment of the following fees to a chairman or member who is not a judge of the Supreme Court, a magistrate, an officer or employee of the Australian Public Service or an employee of the Public Service of the Northern Territory.

Sitting fees

Where a meeting does not continue beyond 4 hours:

Chairman	-	$12.00 per hour
Member	-	$10.00 per hour.

Where a meeting continues beyond 4 hours in respect of any day:

Chairman	-	$60.00 per day
Member	-	$54.00 per day.

Allowances

Chairman or member required to stay overnight at a place other than his place of residence: $45.00 per night.

Transport expenses, including first class air fares, which are reasonably incurred.

723 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Who are the members of each statutory authority under the minister's responsibility?

2. How much is paid to each member by way of sitting fees and other allowances?

ANSWER

1. Members of statutory authorities:

Northern Territory Development Corporation

Clyde G. Adams, Chairman*	Noel L. Buntine, Deputy Chairman
Janie L. Hills, Member	Gerald G. Blitner, Member
John F. Ryan, Member	Edward Hayes, Member
John Grice, Member	

Northern Territory Tourist Bureau

Reginald L. Harris, Chairman	Frederick K. McCue, First Deputy Chairman
Gavin Carpenter, Second Deputy Chairman	Renton Kelly, Member
Ivan Shepherd, Member	Ian Conway, Member
Cyril Riolo, Member	Christopher Hindle, Member

Veterinary Suregons' Board

David A. Newton-Tabrett, Chairman*	Janice L. Hills, Deputy Chairman
	Patrick V. Mornane, Member

NOTE: Public Service personnel are identified by an asterisk.

2. Fees and allowances paid to members are in accordance with a determination by the Administrator, signed on 12 February 1979.

The determination allows for payment of the following fees to a chairman or member who is not a judge of the Supreme Court, a magistrate, an officer or employee of the Australian Public Service or an employee of the Public Service of the Northern Territory.

Sitting fees

Where a meeting does not continue beyond 4 hours:

Chairman	-	$12.00 per hour
Member	-	$10.00 per hour.

Where a meeting continues beyond 4 hours in respect of any day:

Chairman	-	$60.00 per day
Member	-	$54.00 per day.

Allowances

Chairman or member required to stay overnight at a place other than his place of residence: $45.00 per night.

Transport expenses, including first class air fares, which are reasonably incurred.

724 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Who are the members of each statutory authority under the Minister's responsibility?

2. How much is paid to each member by way of sitting fees and other allowances?

ANSWER

1. Only one statutory authority will be under my responsibility in the Education portfolio as from 1 July 1979. This is the Darwin Community College. The council members of the college in alphabetical order are:

Dr F.H. Bauer	Dr M.C. Grassie	Mr G.E. Tambling
Mr M. Brooks	Mr G. Huybregts	Mrs A. Walker
Mr D. Fenton	Mr J. Lawson	Mr A. Watson-Brown
Mr H. Garner	Mr K. Pennell	Mr H. Weber
Mrs N. Giese	Dr J.W. Suiter	Mr B.J. Willing

2. Sitting fees

For full day meetings the chairman presently receives $50 per day and other members $45 per day. Where a meeting does not continue for more than 4 hours on any day, the chairman receives $10 per hour or part of an hour and members $8. It should be noted that the principal or a person who is an employee under the Public Service Act does not receive the above fees.

Allowances

Where a member is necessarily absent from his place of residence in order to attend a council meeting, he shall be paid $37 for each night he is absent.

The council may also pay such transport expenses as are reasonably incurred by a member, travelling for, or as a result of the business of, the council to and from a place at which a meeting is to be held.

The fees and allowances for members of all statutory bodies in the Northern Territory are presently under review.

725 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Who are the members of each statutory authority under the minister's responsibility?

2. How much is paid to each member by way of sitting fees and other allowances?

ANSWER

1. The members of each statutory authority under my responsibility are -

(a) Museums and Art Galleries Board

Justice W.E.S. Forster (Chairman)	Mrs N. Giese
Mr E.C. Evans	Mr F. Landsdowne
Mr C. Patterson	Mr P. Wells
Mr B. McRae	

(b) Consumer Affairs Council

Mr G. Watkins (Chairman)	Mrs M. Byrnes
Mr J. Cummins	Mr B. Heenan
Mr F. Kittle	Ms R. Lesley
Ms D. Rickard	

(c) Parole Board

Justice W.E.S. Forster (Chairman)	Mr J. Flynn
Mr E. Quong	Mr R. Foskey
Sr E. Heath	

(d) Community Service Order Advisory Committee

Mr G. Gordon (Chairman)	Mr P. Pattent
Mr P. Sitzler	Mrs P. Davis
Mrs J. McLean	Mr B. Valadian
Mr J. Donnelly	

(e) Board of Enquiry into Welfare Needs

Mr B. Martin (Chairman)	Mr L. Maine
Mr G. Djerrkura	

2. The amount paid to each member by way of sitting fees and other allowance is -

The members of the Museums and Art Galleries Board, the Consumer Affairs Council and the Parole Board of the Northern Territory receive fees and allowances in accordance with the determination by the Administrator signed by the Acting Administrator on 12 February 1979 (see below).

This determination provides for fees to members of $54 per day for each meeting or where a meeting lasts for less than 4 hours at the rate of $10 per hour.

A chairman receives $60 per day or $12 per hour when the meeting lasts for less than 4 hours.

All members receive $45 per day travelling allowance when required to stay overnight at a place other than their place of residence.

A member of any statutory authority who is a judge of the Supreme Court, a magistrate, an officer or employee of the Australian Public Service or an employee of the Public Service of the Northern Territory receive their usual salary.

The fees paid to members of the Board of Enquiry into Welfare Needs are -

Chairman: $240 for each day engaged on board business.

Other members are paid for each day they are engaged on board business on the basis of salary reimbursement -

All 3 members receive travelling allowance applicable to senior public servants. They receive first class air fares and $45 a day for meals and accommodation.

No fees are paid to members of the Community Service Order Advisory Committee because there is no provision for such payment in the Criminal Law (Conditional Release of Offenders) Act.

The fees and allowances for members of all statutory bodies in the Northern Territory are presently under review.

2. Payments are made only to non-Public Service members.

Medical Board

Chairman - $50 per meeting.

Member - $45 per meeting (for a meeting longer than 4 hours).

Chairman - $10 per hour or part thereof for first 4 hours of a meeting.

Member - $8 per hour or part thereof for first 4 hours of a meeting.

Dentists' Registration Board

No fees or allowances.

Optometrists' Board

Such reasonable out of pocket expenses as are approved by the board.

Pharmacists' Board

Such expenses as are reasonably incurred in attending a meeting as are approved by the minister.

Radiographers' Board

Such fees and allowances as may be prescribed. (No fees etc yet prescribed).

Nurses' Board

No fees or allowances.

Hospital Advisory Boards

The Chairman is paid $50 per day or part thereof and a member is paid $45 per day or part thereof providing a meeting extends for more than 4 hours.

Where a meeting continues for less than 4 hours, payments due are $10 per hour or part thereof to the chairman and $8 per hour or part thereof to a member.

A travelling allowance of $37 per night per member is payable and such other reasonable transport expenses whilst on board business as the board may approve.

1. The membership of the Northern Territory Liquor Commission is as follows:

Mr Ian Pitman	-	Chairman
Mr Michael Maurice	-	Member
Mr Aloysius Narjic	-	Member

2. Fees for the chairman are covered by Public Service Determination, since he is full-time, and in this case his salary and allowances are established by the Northern Territory Public Service at executive level E4.

Mr Maurice's fee is set by the Administrator at $50 per hour, or $250 per day, for a full day in Darwin, or $350 per day for a full day away from Darwin. Mr Maurice is the barrister on the commission. Mr Narjic's fee is established at $54 per flat day rate. In addition to these fees, all members have their travelling and accommodation costs met from commission funds.

Optometrists' Board	Chairman	Dr C.H. Gurd
	Members	Dr K. Moo
		Mr J.C. Sloley
Pharmacists' Board	Chairman	Dr C.H. Gurd
	Members	Mr G. Johnstone
		Mr G. Fyson
		Mr J.A. Hornsby
		Mrs D.M. Killen
		Mr T.G. Irvine
Radiographers' Board	Chairman	Dr C.H. Gurd
	Members	Dr E.M. Bateson
		Mr A.J. Hanlon
		Mr J.L. Hardie
Nurses' Board	Chairman	Dr C.H. Gurd
	Members	Miss L. Reynolds
		Mrs J. O'Brien
		Dr D. Webling
		Miss D. Hayes

Membership of the Hospital Advisory Boards is as follows -

Darwin Hospital Advisory Board	Chairman	Mr E. Quong
	Members	Mr B.T. Manning
		Mrs C.E. Mohring
		Mr H.M. Selvey
		Mr E.B. James
		Mr B. Valadian
		Rev. C.M. Wood
		Dr D. Webling
Katherine Hospital Advisory Board	Chairman	Mr K.F. Jordon
	Members	Dr J.F. Scattini
		Mrs M.F. Cox
		Mrs B. Crabb
		Mrs H.A. Murphy
		Dr K. Prasad
Tennant Creek Hospital Advisory Board	Chairman	Vacant
	Members	Mr H.G. Bennett
		Mrs M.O. Conway
		Mr P.A. Champness
		Dr A. Hughes
Alice Springs Hospital Advisory Board	Chairman	Mr M. Johnston
	Members	Mrs R. Monks
		Mr R. Quarmby
		Mr P. Hughes
		Dr C. Campbell
		Mr McLellan
		Mrs D. Marriott
		Mrs M. Hornsby
Gove Hospital Advisory Board	Chairman	Mr C. Hindle
	Members	Miss M.E. Fletcher
		Mrs G. Marvin
		Mrs J.S. Walling
		Mrs L. Yunupingu
		Mrs J. McAlary
		Mr E.V. Griffin
		Dr P. Aralar
		Dr M. Pillai

727 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Who are the members of each statutory authority under the minister's responsibility?

2. How much is paid to each member by way of sitting fees and other allowances?

ANSWER

Northern Territory Electricity Commission

Chairman of the Commission (full-time): E.S. Dryer.

Commissioners: K.J. Davey; J. Hair.

Fees: $54.00 per day.
Meetings less than 4 hours per day: $10.00 per hour.
Travelling allowance: $45.00.

Electrical Workers' and Contractors' Licensing Board

Chairman of the board (part-time): W.G. Spear.

Fees: $60.00 per day.
Meetings less than 4 hours, $12.00 per hour.

Members: P.R. Ryan; J.F. Lawson; J.J. Humphries (Public Servant); C.H. Ralphs (Executive Officer, Public Servant).

Fees: $54.00 per day.
Meetings less than 4 hours, 12.00 per hour.
Travelling allowance: $45.00.

The fees and allowances for members of all statutory bodies in the Northern Territory are presently under review.

728 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Who are the members of each statutory authority under the minister's responsibility?

2. How much is paid to each member by way of sitting fees and other allowances?

ANSWER

1. There are 6 professional registration boards, 5 hospital advisory boards and the Liquor Commission under the minister's responsibility. Membership of the registration boards is as follows:

Medical Board	Chairman -	Dr. C.H. Gurd
	Members -	Dr E.M. Stack
		Mr J.G. Hawkins
		Dr J. Brotherton
		Mr A. Bromwich
Dentists' Registration Board	Chairman -	Dr C.H. Gurd
	Members -	Dr D. Anderson
		Dr C.D. Mansfield

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

DETERMINATION BY ADMINISTRATOR

FEES AND ALLOWANCES PAYABLE TO MEMBERS
OF CERTAIN STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

I, WILLIAM EDWARD STANDLEY FORSTER, the Acting Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia, acting with the advice of the Executive Council and in pursuance of my powers under each of the Acts or the regulations listed in column 1 of the Schedule, with effect on and from 1 July 1978 -

(a) revoke all previous determinations of fees and allowances payable to the Chairman and members of each of the statutory authorities listed in column 2 of the Schedule; and

(b) determine that, except in the case of a Chairman or a member who is a Judge of the Supreme Court, a magistrate, an officer or employee of the Australian Public Service or an employee of the Public Service of the Northern Territory -

(i) the fee payable to the Chairman or a member of a statutory authority listed in column 2 of the Schedule in respect of each day on which he attends a meeting of the statutory authority, is engaged with the prior approval of the statutory authority, on business of that authority or travels to or from such a meeting or in connection with such business shall be, in the case of the Chairamn, $60 or, in the case of another member, $54 provided that in respect of any day on which such meeting or such business does not continue for longer than 4 hours, the fees payable to the Chairman or member, if that person resides in the locality where the meeting is held or the business is conducted, shall be an amount calculated, in the case of a Chairman, at the rate of $12 per hour or part thereof or, in the case of another member, at the rate of $10 per hour or part thereof;

(ii) the allowance payable to the Chairman or a member of a statutory authority listed in column 2 of the Schedule who is required by the business of the statutory authority to stay overnight at a place other than his place of residence shall be $45 for each such night; and

(iii) a statutory authority listed in column 2 of the Schedule may pay such transport expenses including fares at first-class rates as, in the opinion of the statutory authority, are reasonably incurred by the Chairman or a member in attending a meeting of, or in connection with business of, the statutory authority.

Dated this twelfth day of February 1979.

(Sgd) Acting Administrator
W.E.S. FORSTER

By His Honour's Command P.A.E. EVERINGHAM
Chief Minister

The fees and allowances for members of all statutory bodies in the Northern Territory are presently under review.

729 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Who are the members of each statutory authority under the minister's responsibility?

2. How much is paid to each member by way of sitting fees and other allowances?

ANSWER

The following are members of statutory authorities under the responsibility of the Minister for Lands and Housing:

Land Board

Chairman	-	V. Wasilewsky, Public Servant
Deputy Chairman	-	A. Hooper, Public Servant
Members	-	T. Lawler, Public Servant
		A. McGill, Public Servant
		J. Sturtz, Public Servant
		K. Lansdowne
		R. Smith
		A. Hagan
		N. Buntine
		R. Gubb
		R. Beebe

Land and Valuation Review Tribunal

Hon. Mr Justice E.A. Dunphy
Hon. Mr Justice R.A. Smithers
Hon. Mr Justice W.E.S. Forster
Hon. Mr Justice J.H. Muirhead
Hon. Mr Justice J.F. Gallop
Hon. Mr Justice J.L. Toohey

Town Planning Board

Chairman	-	R. Withnall *
Members	-	M. Hannon
		S. Kennon
		R. Smith
		M. Gort
		B. Willing
Local Members	-	C. Black, Darwin
		W. Oestreich, Alice Springs
		D. Sweetman, Katherine
		A. Callaghan, Tennant Creek
N.T. Component:		
Regional Member	-	F. Rideout, Public Servant

Town Planning Appeals Committee

Chairman	-	D. Mildren *
Members	-	G. Hunt
		G. Chrisp
Deputy Members	-	R. McH. Morrison
		K. Lange

Building Board

Chairman	-	B. Wyatt
Members	-	J. Hunt
		J. Barker
		E. D'Ambrosio

Architects Registration Board

Chairman	-	J. Hunt
Members		K. Frey
		J. Wilkins

N.T. Housing Commission

Chairman	-	G. Stolz **
Members	-	R. Jacob
		J. Bell
		L. Hansen
		P. Lantzke

The fees and allowances payable to the members are specified in the Determination by the Administrator of 12 February 1979 and are as follows:

Public Servants

(i) No sitting fees;

(ii) travelling allowance in accordance with Public Service By-laws.

Non-Public Servants

Chairman:

(i) $12 per hour for up to 4 hours and $60 per day for over 4 hours;

(ii) travelling allowance of $45 per day where overnight travel is involved.

Members:

(i) $10 per hour for up to 4 hours and $54 per day for over 4 hours;

(ii) travelling allowance of $45 per day where overnight travel is involved.

Costs incurred during an evening meeting for a meal are reimbursed.

* Action is presently in process to raise to $250 per day the fees paid to the chairman of the Town Planning Board and the Town Planning Appeals Committee.

** The Chairman of the Housing Commission while not strictly a public servant is nevertheless subject to similar general conditions of service. No additional sitting fees are paid.

730 Mr ISAACS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. Who are the members of each statutory authority under the minister's responsibility?

2. How much is paid to each member by way of sitting fees and other allowances?

ANSWER

The only statutory authority under the Attorney-General's responsibility is the Companies Auditors Board. Its members are D. Patience, R. Lowry and R. Pearce. The chairman (Mr Patience) is paid $12.60 per meeting and the other 2 members, $10.50 per sitting.

731 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

1. Who are the members of each statutory authority under the minister's responsibility?

2. How much is paid to each member by way of sitting fees and other allowances?

ANSWER

Lottery and Gaming Commission

Chairman	-	B. Davis, Public Servant
Members	-	M. O'Mahoney
		D. Weeks

The fees and allowances payable to the members are specified in the Determination by the Administrator of 12 February 1979 and are as follows:

Public Servants

(i) No sitting fees;

(ii) travelling allowance in accordance with Public Service By-laws.

Non-Public Servants

Chairman:

(i) $12 per hour for up to 4 hours and $60 per day for over 4 hours;

(ii) travelling allowance of $45 per day where overnight travel is involved.

Members:

(i) $10 per hour for up to 4 hours and $54 per day for over 4 hours;

(ii) travelling allowance of $45 per day where overnight travel is involved.

Costs incurred during an evening meeting for a meal are reimbursed.

The fees and allowances for members of all statutory bodies in the Northern Territory are presently under review.

760 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What resources are available in the Department of Industrial Development to encourage and help exports of goods from small primary producers and others to the northern markets in South-East Asia?

ANSWER

The Industry Promotion Division of the Department of Industrial Development is staffed by officers to assist primary producers market their

production surplus. Advice is readily available to producers or marketing agencies on how to market production overseas and includes advice on packaging, transportation, promotion and advertising, financial incentives, export documentation and insurance. Direct assistance in locating overseas buyers is available.

761 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What help is available from the Department of Industrial Development for local small primary producers near Darwin and other towns in the Northern Territory to market their products on the local markets, having regard to quality control and continuity of supply in particular?

ANSWER

The Department of Industrial Development encourages local primary producers to market their products through existing agencies such as the Northern Territory Producers Co-op Ltd and the Producers Market. Where producers have a marketable surplus of product, the department, through its Industry Promotion Division is able to assist with the identification and securing of alternative markets. The Department's Division of Primary Industry is able to advise producers on quality control in the production and handling stages.

787 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Why did G.I. & G. Favaro Construction Company return to the Department of Transport and Works the contract to realign the Stuart Highway north of Alice Springs, when the project was approximately less than half completed?

2. What amount of public money has been paid already to Favaro Construction Company out of the total amount of funds allocated for this realignment project?

3. Is it true that the plant and equipment of Favaro Equipment Company will be hired by the Department of Transport and Works to complete the realignment of the Stuart Highway north of Alice Springs and, if so, what charges, terms and conditions will apply to the hire of such equipment?

4. What consideration has been given to letting out to tender the completion of the realignment project?

5. What steps will now be taken by the government to ensure that the realignment project is completed on schedule?

6. What is the estimated cost to complete the realignment of the Stuart Highway north of Alice Springs?

ANSWER

1. The contractor for realignment of the Stuart Highway in the hills north of Alice Springs, G.I. and G. Favaro Pty Ltd advised the Department of Transport and Works in writing that due to financial reasons it was unable to complete the contract.

2. At the time the contract was taken out of the contractor's hands, the contractor had been paid a total of $1,109,520. The total estimated cost of the project if $3.005m and funds have been made available for this purpose.

3. When the contract was taken over, public tenders were called for the supply of plant on a hire basis. The successful tenderer on some of the required items of plant was G.I. & G. Favaro Equipment Company Pty Ltd.

   The items of plant will be hired without operators, at the tender price, and only for the time that they are required.

4. Upon advice from the contractor that he was unable to complete the contract, consideration was given to the various options available to complete the project within available funds and still meet the original target completion date. In order to meet these objectives it was decided that the best course of action was for the Department of Transport and Works to complete the project by direct management.

5. Under the management of the Department of Transport and Works, progress has accelerated and the project is now expected to be completed on schedule.

6. The current estimate to complete the work is $1.96m.

   The completion of the Charles River bridge will be by contract. Tenders have already closed and my department is at present assessing these.

788 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it true that a meeting was convened at Lake Nash on 19 May this year to discuss problems between local Aboriginals and the station management?

2. Were the Lake Nash Aboriginals advised officially of this meeting and, if so, by whom?

3. Were representatives of the NT government present at the Lake Nash meeting on 19 May this year and, if so, who were they?

4. Were representatives of the Federal government present at this meeting and, if so, who were they?

5. Were representative of the Swift (Australia) Company present at this meeting and, if so, who were they?

6. Were any advisers present at this meeting to assist the Lake Nash Aboriginals and, if so, who were they?

7. Did this meeting have the services of an interpreter between the Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals present and, if so, who was the interpreter and who arranged for his or her services?

8. In what capacity did the Minister for Mines and Energy attend the meeting at Lake Nash on 19 May this year?

9. Is it correct, as reported in the media on 22 May 1979, that the management of Lake Nash Station would allow Aboriginals as of Thursday 24 May 1979 -

   (a) to purchase food supplies from the station store with social security benefits cheques;

   (b) to cash such cheques;

(c) to purchase petrol; and

did the management of Lake Nash Station in fact allow such purchases as of 24 May this year?

ANSWER

1. Yes. Two meetings were held at Lake Nash on 19 May 1979. One with station managemtn and the other with Aborigines of Lake Nash Station.

2. Yes, by Mr J. Chudleight of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Mr D. Kerrin, Aboriginal Liaison Unit, Chief Minister's Department.

3. Yes. Mr Ian Tuxworth, Minister for Health and Energy; Mr G. Nicholson, Crown Solicitor, Attorney-General's Department; Mr J. Gallacher, Executive Officer, Aboriginal Liaison Unit, Chief Minister's Department; Mr D. Kerrin, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Chief Minister's Department.

4. Yes. Mr R. Huey, Regional Director (Southern) DAA; Mr J. Chudleigh, Area Officer, Tennant Creek, DAA; Mr H. Pepperill, Field Officer, Tennant Creek, DAA.

5. Yes. Mr P. Bassingthwaighte; Mr P. Crumlin, Manager of Lake Nash Station was also present.

6. Yes. At the second meeting with the Lake Nash Aborigines there were, in addition to the government officers mentioned above, Rev. J. Downing, Institute of Aboriginal Development, Alice Springs; Mr B. Ede, Director, Central Australian Aborigines Congress; Mr R. Howie, Solicitor, Central Land Council.

7. Yes. The interpreter was Mr Davey Bula and his services were arranged by Rev. J. Downing.

8. Mr Tuxworth attended both meetings in his capacity as Minister for Health.

9. Yes.

789 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What legal, financial and welfare roles does the NT government have in respect of the administration of Aboriginal Affairs in the Territory?

2. Does the NT government propose to take over all the functions of the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs in the Territory?

3. Who are his advisers within the NT government on Aboriginal Affairs policy and what are the qualifications and experience of each of them in the field of Aboriginal Affairs?

4. Which of the advisers are NT public servants and which are Commonwealth public servants?

ANSWER

1. The administration of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in the Northern Territory is the responsibility of the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

In accordance with the NT Self-Government Act and the Memorandum of Understanding in respect of financial arrangements between the Commonwealth and a self-governing Northern Territory, the NT government has important legal, financial and welfare roles in respect of Aboriginals in that Aboriginals are equal members of the total NT community and are entitled to the legal, financial and welfare services available to all other citizens in the Northern Territory.

The Memorandum of Understanding, at paragraphs 44 to 46 inclusive, sets the framework for the special financial arrangements between the Commonwealth and NT government for additional funds which may be necessary to reduce the degree of disadvantage which undoubtedly exists at this stage between many Aboriginals and other citizens in the Northern Territory.

2. The NT government has already been given the responsibility for the provision of essential services to Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory. It is negotiating with the Commonwealth the transfer of funds for all other state-type functions which are being carried out by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. The NT government does not propose to take over all the functions of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in the Northern Territory.

   The NT government accepts the functional role of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs as summarised in a paper presented to the Aboriginal Affairs Council meeting at Brisbane in November 1978 and I quote:

   "The principles on which DAA approaches its responsibility are set out below. Its wish as a department is to co-operate with service delivery agents, whether Commonwealth or state.

   . The principle that DAA does not deliver government services. That is for functional Commonwealth or state authorities.

   . The principle that DAA has the responsibility of ensuring that the Commonwealth's policies are put into effect through co-ordinated practical action by functional authorities in individual communities, supplmented as necessary by direct grants-in-aid to Aboriginal organisations.

   . The principle that DAA has a special interest in and responsibility for relating action by functional authorities to Aboriginal needs. In carrying out this responsibility, it should stimulate, initiate and monitor as well as co-ordinate.

   . The recognition that DAA/government interaction with communities itself has an impact on community plans and progress and that the process should be one in which the community worker is able to give advice and in which also the NAC member fully participate.

   The principle that individual states may have their own systems for co-ordinating state services. The role of DAA is seen as that of co-ordinator of total inputs as part of the Commonwealth policy planning and financing responsibility based on Commonwealth legislation and the subject of agreements with states."

3. I do not propose to list all NT public servants who are involved in policy development, but provide the following list of officers of the Aboriginal Liaison Unit who contribute to the advice which I receive.

Creed Lovegrove, Jim Gallacher, Les Penhall. These officers have had a long and close association with Aboriginals in the Northern Territory and with their advancement. Additionally, Olive Kennedy, Dennis Kerrin, Hyacinth Tungutalum, Eric Roberts, Wali Wunungmurra, Dean Yibarbuk are Aboriginals appointed to positions of Liaison Officer within the Chief Minister's Department.

4. All are Territory public servants.

790 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that the Swift (Australia) Company and the Queensland and Northern Territory Pastoral Company - members of the King Ranch Texas Group companies - have attempted to evict the Aboriginal population of Lake Nash Station on 2 occaisons in 5 years?

2. Is he aware of the apparent public controversy surrounding the policies of the above-mentioned companies in relation to Aboriginals and is he satisifed that this apparent controversy will not inhibit or adversely affect the continued export of Australian and Territory beef by such companies to the United States of America?

3. Is he aware of any proposals by USA civil rights groups to press for the banning of beef exports from Australia to the USA as a result of the company's action against Aboriginals at Lake Nash Station?

4. What action, if any, has been taken by the NT government to date to resolve the problems at Lake Nash Station between Aboriginals and the management?

ANSWER

1. I am not aware of any attempts to evict the Aboriginal population at Lake Nash.

2. I am aware of the public controversy surrounding the situation between the Lake Nash pastoral management and the Lake Nash Aborigines, but I am unaware that this is likely to adversely affect the continued export of Australian and Territory beef to the USA.

3. No.

4. As a result of the meetings of 19 May, pastoral management at Lake Nash has now agreed to cash all cheques at the local store. The NT government is presently negotiating with the Queensland and Northern Territory Pastoral Company to see whether land suitable to the Lake Nash Aborigines can be made available within Lake Nash for use by the Lake Nash Aborigines. When such land does become available, the NT government would accept the responsibility for the provision of services to the Aboriginal community located on the land set aside.

791 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What was the cost of fuelling the Stokes Hill power station in the financial years 1972-73; 1975-76; and 1977-78?

2. What is the estimated cost for the current year and for the 1979-80 financial year?

3. Are fuel shortages anticipated for any reason in the 1979-80 financial year and, if so, what measures are planned to overcome them?

ANSWER

1. Stokes Hill power station was operated by the Commonwealth government during those years and it is expected that there would be some delay in obtaining this information. It is understood, however, that the costs were as follows:

   1972-73 - $1,139,000; 1975-76 - $5,858,000: 1977-78 - $6,937,000.

2. The estimated cost for 1978-79 is $9,500,000. A figure of $12,900,000 is presently budgetted for 1979-80.

3. It is clear that the future price and availability of petroleum based fuels must be regarded as uncertain with shortages likely to occur without notice.

   In the shorter term, the Electricity Commission has commenced work to rehabilitate some of the wartime tunnel tanks in Darwin to increase storage capacity for Stokes Hill power station.

   I have written to the Minister for Administrative Services seeking a 30 year lease for the balance of the underground tanks and the Navy are presently considering a request for the lease of the storage tanks at Doctor's Gully.

   The aim is to provide sufficient storage capacity to hold fuel for 6 months operation of Stokes Hill power station.

   With regard to the other power stations which operate on distillate, work has already commenced to provide for some 9,500 tonnes of additional storage capacity.

   The primary aim of increasing storage capacity is to enable the commission to weather the shortages which may occur from time to time.

   In the longer term where the problem of oil supplies will probably worsen, the commission looks to the development of oil and gas deposits in the Mereenie area as well as hydro-electric potential in the Top End and at the Ord River dam.

795 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

I refer to recent grants of $1,630 to the Family Planning Association, $1,600 to Pregnancy Healp Incorporated and $1,500 to the Natural Family Planning Association, Northern Territory, and ask -

(a) Are these organisations incorporated in the Northern Territory?

(b) Has the NT Department of Health received audited financial statements from each organisation for 1977-78?

(c) During 1977-78, how many patients/clients did each organisation service in the Northern Territory?

(d) How much does each organisation charge for a consultation?

(e) During 1977-78, how much financial assistance did each organisation receive from the Commonwealth government?

ANSWER

1. Family Planning Association of the Northern Territory Inc.

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) 2,383 consultations at clinic sessions plus various education lectures at school and hospitals.

(d) Charges are raised for medical consultations only at $6.50 for a brief consultation and $8.50 for a standard consultation. Where an intra-uterine device is inserted a combined fee of $17.60 is charged.

(d)

Health Program Grant	$23,268
Family Planning Program Grant	$22,907
Rent Subsidy Department of the NT	$ 2,500.

2. Pregnancy Help Incorporated

(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) The organisation did not become active after the Christmas 1974 cyclone, until August 1975.

(d) Nil.

(e) Nil.

3. Natural Family Planning Council of the Northern Territory

(a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Approximately 100.

(d) An initial consultation fee of $3.00

(e) Nil.

796 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What arrangements have been made to provide improved conditions for passengers and staff during baggage clearance, immigration clearance and quarantine clearance at the Darwin airport?

2. Will the building known as the Customs Hall be air-conditioned?

ANSWER

I wish to inform the honourable member that these matters are Commonwealth responsibilities. Nevertheless, I shall continue to press the Commonwealth government to upgrade facilities at Darwin airport.

797 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How many government buildings in Katherine are not directly connected to the Fire Brigade headquarters by automatic fire alarms and other communications?

ANSWER

There are approximately 14 Northern Territory administered buildings in Katherine not connected to the Fire Brigade's automatic alarm system.

799 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

(a) What is the estimated cost of the proposed overpass to be constructed at the Bagot Road-Stuart Highway intersection?

(b) What other options were considered to relieve traffic congestion at that intersection?

ANSWER

(a) The order of cost estimate for the proposed Bagot Road-Stuart Highway overpass is $2,500,000.

(b) Many investigations have taken place to relieve traffic congestion at this intersection and to improve the traffic flow into central business district. Four major projects have been proposed for construction during the 1978-79 and 1979-80 financial years. These projects are the Frances Bay arterial road, Fannie Bay connector road, reconstruction of intersections at Ross Smith Avenue-Stuart Highway, Parap Road-Stuart Highway and Goyder Road-Stuart Highway and the Bagot Road-Stuart Highway overpass.

It is anticipated that the traffic flow at the Bagot Road-Stuart Highway intersection will be substantially improved on the completion of the overpass.

800 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When is it expected that the reconstruction of the Stuart Highway, which was recently commenced between the 12 and 14 mile, will be completed at that location?

ANSWER

The contractors, Henry and Walker Pty Ltd, are proceeding on schedule and it is expected that the reconstruction of Stuart Highway between 12 and 14 mile will be completed by the end of July 1979.

801 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the government assumed responsibility for maintaining the section of Freds Pass Road which provides the only means of access to the Elizabeth River Estate subdivision in the Hundred of Stangways? If the answer is yes, why has the road not been maintained to acceptable rural standards?

ANSWER

The government has not assumed responsibility for maintaining the section of Freds Pass Road which provides access to the Elizabeth River Estate subdivision.

803 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What specific conditions over and above normal public service conditions are given to each of the departmental heads in the Northern Territory Public Service?

ANSWER

The only specific condition over and above normal Public Service conditions applicable to departmental heads is the payment of an out-of-pocket allowance. In addition, as with some other employees, a departmental head is provided with an official vehicle and telephone in his private residence because of the requirement for official duty after hours.

804 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

During 1978 -

(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) 31 persons.

(b) (i) 25 persons - Darwin Hospital
1 person - Alice Springs Hospital
4 persons - Darwin's Fannie Bay Gaol
1 person - Alice Springs Gaol

(ii) 30 persons - 14 days
1 person - 8 days.

(c) 10 persons.

(d) 10 persons.

(e) 2 persons.

805 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the rate of fluoridation of the Darwin water supply?

2. On what basis is the rate determined?

3. Is consideration given in determining the rate of the higher consumption of water in tropical areas?

4. Are any studies being undertaken to assess the effect of the fluoridation of Darwin water supply on the teeth of Darwin children?

ANSWER

1. Within the range of 0.6 to 0.8 mg/litre, i.e. 0.6 to 0.8 parts per million of fluoride.

2. From studies in the USA concerning temperature as a determinant of the fluoridation level and the review of optimum fluoride levels by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia.

3. Yes; as shown by the above studies. The recommended level in temperature climates being 1 : 1.2 parts per million (L: 1.2 mg/litre).

4. A pre-fluoridation survey giving base-line data was conducted in Darwin in July 1972. The National Dental Survey, a Commonwealth/states initiative is now being planned and costed in collaboration with the Australian Bureau of Statistics. This will provide a basis for further surveys on Darwin children.

813 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the Chief Minister or one of his ministers make a full statement to the Assembly during these sittings regarding East-West Airlines' proposed take over of Connair? In particular, will he assure residents of outback communities that East-West Airlines will provide a service to them and not simply cream off the profitable routes?

ANSWER

It is interesting that the Leader of the Opposition has raised this point at this time. I read in the popular press that discussions are taking place between East-West Airlines and Connair and that there is to be some resolution of these discussions by the 24th or 25th of this month. It is a fact that East-West Airlines have had discussions with officials of the Northern Territory government. I have seen a proposal which East-West Airlines put to the Northern Territory government as to what its attitude should be towards the proposed merger between East-West Airlines and Connair. Some of the terms of that proposal were very interesting to me because East-West Airlines proposed that at least 49% of whatever corporate structure arose out of the merger should be held by residents of the Northern Territory. East-West Airlines further proposed that new and modern aircraft should be obtained to service outback communities and that it take over from Ansett and TAA the routes between Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs and that these be serviced by modern aircraft. East-West Airlines indicated also that it has been seeking approval from the Minister for Transport, Mr Nixon, to re-equip its fleet with modern jet aircraft and that these aircraft be used, together with Fokker Friendship F27 aircraft, in services within the Northern Territory.

There was one outstanding point of the East-West Airlines' proposal: it felt that it could accommodate within its ranks the people presently employed by Connair Pty Ltd and further that it would not need a subsidy for its operations. A subsidy, of course, depends on whether the Northern Territory government, which has at the present time no intra-Territory air navigation powers, can persuade the federal government to give to East-West Airlines - providing modern aircraft are employed and frequencies are improved - the routes between Darwin and Alice Springs. Its proposal also includes a continuation of the route from Alice Springs to Sydney.

I see this as the virtual creation of a third major airline within Australia by the joining together of East-West Airlines and Connair Pty Ltd. East-West Airlines is a most progressive airline with a record of good service to rural communities in outback New South Wales and outback Queensland. It also has as good a record in boosting tourism within eastern Australia as is possible for any airline to have.

This government has been saying ever since it came into office in September 1977 that it abhors the current two-airline policy in Australia. The Northern Territory government has fought to have this policy struck down. By the creation of the new corporate body - I believe it could be called Northern Airlines or Air Australia - the two-airline policy will be effectively placed in jeopardy for the first time because there will be real competition throughout most of Australia. South Australia and Western Australia will be the only 2 states where East-West Airlines or the new Northern Territory Airline will not be operating.

Hopefully, not only will the Northern Territory have spawned, together

with Queensland, Australia's overseas airline, Qantas, but also will give birth to Australia's third major airline. This major airline will do much to promote tourism in the Territory and will assist people in isolated communities by providing increased and better services. I hope that it will be able to provide better and more regular freight services and, generally speaking, I believe that such a merger can only be for the betterment of the Northern Territory and the people of Australia.

814 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

My question relates to Aboriginal housing programs funded by the Commonwealth and administered by the Northern Territory. I asked this question on Thursday 31 May. Was the minister reported correctly on Morning Extra when it was indicated that he had stated it would set a very dangerous precedent to ask neighbours their opinions before moving families into Housing Commission Homes and that he would not be a party to such an exercise?

ANSWER

I confirm the answer that I gave the honourable member. I do not intend to change it.

815 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the current position with the Pellerman offer to use part of the Darwin Hospital for a private hospital facility?

ANSWER

In February this year, Mr Pellerman, who is a private hospital operator in Sydney and who is building another hospital on the Queensland Gold Coast, indicated to the government that he would be interested in taking up part or all of the Darwin Hospital and operating it as a private hospital for the people of Darwin. I encouraged Mr Pellerman to put up a proposal to give us an indication of what he was prepared to pay for the Darwin Hospital and how he saw the whole thing being operated. Subsequently, we received what amounted to a profit and loss statement from Mr Pellerman outlining how he saw the economics of the Darwin Hospital running as a private hospital similar to his present hospital in New South Wales and the hospital he is constructing in Queensland. He indicated that there would be a great saving to the people of the Northern Territory as a result of his entry into the field of private hospital care because he believes that private hospital operations are much more economic and satisfactory so far as the patient is concerned.

The basis of Mr Pellerman's submission was not totally satisfactory from the point of view of the government in that it did not address itself to the questions of satisfactory remuneration for the buildings, the method of operation within the hospital for the sections that Mr Pellerman was interested in and the funding of services that would be provided within the hospital such as steam, electricity, water etc. As honourable members would be aware, the Darwin Hospital is a very large complex which is rather like a rabbit warren in many ways. Over the years, the Health Department has established a rather satisfactory system within the hospital of providing central services and maintenance to the hospital unit. One of the questions that arises is that, if Mr Pellerman was to take up a part of the Darwin Hospital how would the services be shared amongst the persons using the facility? Would Mr Pellerman be interested in assuming the whole use of the boiler house, laundry and kitchen operations

if he was only using part of the hospital? Issues such as these were not mentioned in Mr Pellerman's paper but are certainly matters for further discussion.

One other aspect to which the government has to address itself is what is to become of the Darwin Hospital in the event of the present services such as the psychiatric, the rehabilitation and the geriatric units remaining there. Neither Mr Pellerman nor the facilities that will stay in the Darwin Hospital will use all of the building. What is to become of the rest of it and how is it to be maintained? What will be the cost of that maintenance?

Honourable members will be aware that, when the Casuarina project was put before the Commonwealth Parliamentary Works Committee, there was a provision in the planning for a second stage to be built at Casuarina which would accommodate the psychiatric, geriatric and rehabilitation units that will still be housed at this stage in the Darwin Hospital. The government has to balance the cost of building the additional wing at Casuarina compared with its staying where it is. If an additional wing was built at Casuarina, what would become of the existing Darwin Hospital? There are people within government who would say the hospital should be retained for future growth of the Darwin urban area and its surrounds so that, when the Casuarina complex is fully utilised, the government can return to the building in the main city area and begin to use it again as a hospital. There are certainly many questions to be answered concerning that proposal. If a return to Darwin Hospital occurred after 1985, the question of maintaining the hospital at a satisfactory standard so that it could be re-used after that period is certainly one that would need considerable investigation. As honourable members would know, it is probably more expensive to maintain an empty building than it is to maintain buildings that are used every day.

There are many delicate issues involved in the consideration of using Darwin Hospital as a private hospital. As a government, we are very keen to see a private hospital established in Darwin. We think it would have a great contribution to make to the community because they do contribute much in the other states. A complicating factor is that the federal Minister for Health, as a result of a meeting held in Sydney in May this year, has come to an agreement with the states that there should be no increase in the number of beds made available within the Commonwealth while a current study is being conducted by the states and the Commonwealth on bed costs. This particular request of the Commonwealth would be very valid in respect of the states where bed occupancies in hospitals vary between 35% and 65%. While the Northern Territory would expect to accede to the request of the Commonwealth, we may well justify a case for the Darwin Hospital to be used as a private hospital or not. This issue has been dealt with pretty lightly by some people as though it was just a yes or a no issue. It has very serious financial ramifications for everybody in the Northern Territory and I believe it is an issue that should be dealt with very carefully.

816 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he verify whether exploration will be restricted as a result of the Finniss River land claim?

ANSWER

I would like to present some facts about the Finniss River land claim as they apply to mining exploration and development within the Northern Territory. A press headline the other day suggested that the Finniss

River land claim would deter or wreck mining exploration in the Northern Territory and there were some rather unfortunate, ill-informed comments by someone from the mining industry. I would like to put before honourable members the position so far as this particular land claim is concerned. It is very important that we deal with the facts in this particular issue and not with the surmise and the rhetoric which are often bandied about.

Honourable members would be aware that a land claim has no effect over existing exploration licences or licences granted prior to the lodging of a land claim. These licences continue for their full term and are subject only to the normal provisions of the Northern Territory Mining Act. However, should a land claim be upheld, it affects the applications by the existing exploration licence holders for consequential mining tenements within the area of the exploration licences. The grant of these mining tenements is dependent upon the consent of the appropriate land council and an agreement between the land council and the company concerned is required under sections 40 to 43 of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

Applications for further exploration licences which have not been granted prior to the land claim being lodged will be held in abeyance pending the outcome of the hearing of the claim. Should the claim be upheld, then the grant of the exploration licences would be dependent upon the consent of the appropriate land council and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. In the case of mining tenements that are granted prior to the lodging of a claim, these will not be affected. However, applications made after the date of lodgment of the claim will be subject to the normal provisions of sections 40 to 43 of the act.

Turning specifically to the honourable member's question, the Finniss River land claim was lodged with the Aboriginal Land Commissioner on 20 July by the Northern Land Council on behalf of Aboriginals claiming traditional relationships with that area. There are approximately 23 exploration licences granted within the area of the land claim and 29 applications for exploration licences were lodged prior to the lodgment of the claim. There are also 39 mining tenements within the area of the claim and no applications for mining tenements are pending. Preliminary studies undertaken by the Department of Lands and Housing and the Department of Mines and Energy show that a proportion of the land comprising this claim is in fact alienated crown land and cannot be the subject of a claim. If this should prove to be the case, then the effect on mineral exploration would be minimal in this area. I think it will be shown that the effect on mining and exploration will not be as devasting as some people would have us believe.

817 Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it a fact that a letter signed by Mr Clyde Adams on behalf of the minister has been circulated to officers of the Primary Industry Division instructing them not to answer questions asked by the member for Elsey?

ANSWER

I am surprised to receive such a question as this from the member for Victoria River. I cannot speak to Mr Clyde Adams at the moment because, firstly, he is away on recreational leave overseas and, secondly, he is not secretary of the Department of Primary Production. He is the full-time chairman of the Territory Development Corporation. However, I have had inquiries made of the Director of the Division of Agriculture and

Stock within the Department of Primary Production, Mr Tony Hooper, and I can give an assurance that Mr Hooper denies completely ever instructing any of his officers not to assist in the preparation of answers to questions of any type put by the member for Elsey nor has he done so in relation to any other MLA. He is satisfied that none of his officers has issued such instructions to other officers. Since 1 July 1978, the honourable member for Elsey has put between 50 and 60 questions on notice requiring the preparation of answers by the Division of Agriculture and Stock, formerly called the Division of Primary Industry, and only one of those questions - question on notice 590 concerning beef marketing - has not at the present time been answered. An answer to this question is awaiting ministerial clearance.

818 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the minister explain why the responsibility for price control and tenancy was removed from his department, which is responsible for consumer affairs, to the Department of the Treasury?

ANSWER

I would ask her to place the question on notice.

819 Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Does the present shortage of distillate, the threatened shortage of avgas and the almost complete lack of automotive LPG outlets give the minister cause for concern as to the way in which the supply of energy in the Northern Territory is being managed?

ANSWER

There has been some dislocation in the last 2 or 3 weeks over the supply of diesoline and avgas to consumers within the Northern Territory. This is an issue that has been blown out of proportion. There has been, on the part of the industries, unfortunate communication with their consumers and their dealers on how the matter should be resolved. One of the facets of supplying fuel, particularly diesel, avgas and petrol, to the Northern Territory market is that it is planned with the shipping companies between 6 and 8 months ahead. As far as the companies are concerned, every gallon that is purchased is virtually sold when it gets here. That does not mean that they have orders for it but it does mean that they have a projected sales commitment or market share to honour.

We have, at the moment, a shortage of avgas. This is not just within the Northern Territory but it is an Australia-wide problem. It appeared obvious to me at the latest Minerals and Energy Council meeting that, while we have a problem, we are probably the least affected state in the Commonwealth.

The shortage of both products was not only caused by the dislocation of supply lines by one particular company but also by the upturn in the Northern Territory economy. If we compare the Northern Territory's economy today to the activity that was going on 12 months ago, I think everybody would agree there has been a very considerable increase in all areas. The beef industry is particularly buoyant. The tourist industry is at a peak and I don't think it has ever been as busy as it is at the moment. The mining industry, with the development of Ranger and Nabarlek and the recommissioning of the smelter and extension works at Gove, is

also in a high period of activity. The coastal surveillance operation, which was not planned for 11 months ago, is also demanding a lot of fuel.

That being the case, the companies had planned for a projected growth which was probably reasonable given the circumstances. Most of them planned for a 30% increase in consumption as a result of activity. We have met the 30% within the Territory and we have exceeded it considerably.

The company that won the diesoline contract unfortunately - and probably they have a great deal of responsibility for this - did not have a supply line that could meet the contracted commitment to the Ranger and Nabarlek projects. They will get over it in the course of time because organising shipping takes time. In the meantime, it has given us the dislocation problems that we have at the moment. On the avgas side, the product is coming from Singapore. Like the rest of Australia, we are getting a supply that is above last year's consumption but definitely not adequate for the amount of activity that is occurring. The industry people advised me that, so far as avgas is concerned, they do not see any easing of the situation at all. In fact, we will have to contract in the areas of joy-riding and parachute jumping if we are to get through this period.

There is a ship due in Darwin on the 27th which will get us out of the current problem regarding diesoline. I have made representations to the management of Shell and the federal Minister for National Development to have the Northern Territory's quota of diesoline increased to a level that will enable us to meet the level of activity at present. It is not an acceptable proposition so far as this government is concerned for the activity that we have all worked so hard to generate to be thwarted by a decision of a company in another place.

One of the discussion points at the recent ministerial conference on energy was the conversion of vehicles to LPG where possible. It was indicated, with some quite strong evidence to support it, that the maximum conversion that we can hope for in this country is between 10% to 15% of vehicles. These would be primarily fleet vehicles such as taxis and hire cars that work within a close proximity of refuelling points because the distribution of LPG is the criterion that decides whether you can convert or not. The conversion will also be slowed down because the Americans, the main producers of conversion kits, have an embargo on their export at the moment because they are looking after themselves first.

So far as the Northern Territory is concerned, LPG is not a proposition for us at the moment because the cost of bringing in a litre of LPG that would do the same work as a litre of petrol is about 44c to 45c a litre. This does not compare favourably with the current cost of petrol or diesel which is around 30 cents. To answer the honourable member's question, there has been some dislocation. I do not think it is a matter of irresponsibility; it is the enormous growth at the moment that is causing it.

820 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the shift of the residential population from the centre of Alice Springs, has any thought been given to the closing or moving of the Nathalie Gorey Pre-school Centre?

ANSWER

The Nathalie Gorey Pre-school has some difficulties in that it originally

operated under a trust. I further believe that the trust indeed has some funds remaining within its accounts. The Alice Springs town council want the Nathalie Gorey Pre-school for the purpose of a senior citizens club to replace the existing Adelaide House Senior Citizens Centre in Todd Street. Certainly, there is a market movement of population due to the opening of new subdivisions in the eastern area of Alice Springs. It would be fairly safe to assume that we will need a pre-school out in that area and probably further primary school facilities. It comes back to locating the original trustees of the Nathalie Gory Pre-school, consulting with the parents who send their children to that pre-school and making sure that the name of that very famous lady of early Alice Springs history is maintained in some other institution. It is a historic pre-school and that woman was very actively associated with early education in Alice Springs. That really is the position at the moment: a recognition of needs of the eastern area of Alice Springs, the requirement of the council for a new facility for pensioners and the resolution of any trust difficulties which may arise in respect of the original trust which set up the Nathalie Gory Pre-school.

821 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERY

Has the Northern Territory government adopted a definite attitude to the banning or deferring indefinitely of sand mining in the rural residential area having regard to the recommendations in the recent rural development plan ?

ANSWER

The government has addressed itself on several occasions to the issue of sand mining in the Howard Springs area. I am sure that everybody knows that the honourable member for Tiwi and Arnhem ride me pretty heavily about it. One thing that has prevented us from getting out of the Howard Springs area completely so far as sand mining is concerned was the lack of a suitable supply from another source. The Department of Mines and Energy has identified another source which will continue to supply Darwin with its needs for some years to come. The area that the honourable member for Tiwi refers to is one that we both inspected recently and I am of the opinion, without having technical data to support me today, that there should be no sand mining in that particular area at all. There is no doubt that it will be a rural residential area. It is already surrounded by rural residential lots and the prospect of putting a sand mining operation in that particular area is not totally satisfactory. Before the application by the companies concerned is rejected, there is a bit more technical data to be compiled. The honourable member can rest assured there will be no sand mining in the particular area we looked at the other day.

822 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

The Chief Minister will recall that, in July this year, the Minister for Transport and Works foreshadowed that detailed contractual arrangements would be finalised in early August between the Northern Territory government and John Holland Constructions in relation to the small ships facility at Frances Bay. Can he inform the House whether or not the contractual arrangements referred to have been settled?

ANSWER

The situation is that I initialled or signed, I cannot remember exactly which, heads of agreement with John Holland Constructions earlier this

this year relating to the construction of a small ships repair facility at Frances Bay. At the time I initialled those heads of agreement, I had received advice from the Northern Territory Department of Law that the heads of agreement were in order to sign. In fact, the people giving a commitment under the Heads of the agreement were John Holland Constructions and the Northern Territory government had nothing at all to lose as a result of signing. If the heads of agreement were unenforceable, then John Holland could not enforce them against the Northern Territory government. Seeing John Holland were prepared to do the work and buy a very expensive synchro-lift, which I understand cost them $500,000, on the strength of the heads of agreement, then good luck to John Holland.

The Leader of the Opposition has not written to the Minister for Industrial Development or myself in respect of this matter. He has not raised this matter officially with us at all; we have simply read what he had to say in the pages of the popular press. If he had a genuine concern for the interests of the people of the Northern Territory, one would think that we would at least have heard officially from him under his letterhead. The situation is that jobs have been created where this facility is being built and additional jobs will be created within the facility when it is finished. It seems to me that what the Leader of the Opposition does not want to see in the Northern Territory is the commencement and the completion of projects that will create jobs. As far as I can see, the Leader of the Opposition takes an immediate set against any project that looks like being employment creating.

The Northern Territory government has concluded contractual arrangements with John Holland Constructions and those contractual arrangements are completely satisfactory now and, from the point of view of the Territory government, always have been because we have been under no legal commitment at all until such time as we sign the formal agreement. John Holland performs any work and enters into any arrangements up to that time at its own risk. If there is any better deal that the Northern Territory government can be in, I would be pleased to hear of it.

823 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise the position with regard to the outbreak of infectious hepatitis in Katherine?

ANSWER

So far this year, there have been 80 cases of hepatitis in the town of Katherine. The outbreak commenced in January with 5 cases in the Jord Construction camp established for the building of the Katherine South School. Further cases developed at the creche at the end of March and spread from there to the community at large. There were 7 cases in April, 16 in May, 19 in June and 19 in July. There were also 7 or 8 cases at the meatworks early in July and all meatworks employees were given gammaglobulin and gammaglobulin was also being widely used in the community. As a result of this, the health inspectorial services have been stepped up to try to identify any sources that may be causing the outbreak.

824 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is it still the government's intention to extend the Casuarina campus of the Darwin Community College by the addition of land formerly held under a town lands subdivision lease by the Hooker Corporation Ltd?

ANSWER

The government made an announcement quite some time ago that it was quite happy to issue additional land to the Darwin Community College adjacent to its existing lease. That commitment has never been changed or even reviewed. At that time, investigations were still underway as to future land uses in the area which is generally termed Brinkin as a result of the handback of a private development lease to the government. Since that time, the government has looked at a range of land uses for the area in association with additional land for Darwin Community College. At no time has there been an intention to alter the commitment to the Darwin Community College. Indeed, the government is very concerned that the college should be brought back onto a single campus. The only way for that to happen is to provide additional land for them. I expect that the necessary formal commitments to the college will be completed within some months. I cannot give a specific undertaking when the final lease can be prepared.

825 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

There is a continuing and urgent need to provide additional parking facilities in the inner city area. Could he give any further information as to the availability of land on which to construct such facilities?

ANSWER

There are 2 specific proposals being looked at for multi-storey car parking and associated development in the central business district of Darwin at present. One of them is by a private developer and relates to West Lane. Further, the municipality has been holding preliminary talks with the Darwin Workers Club with a view to the possible use of parts of its site and the air space above its site. Both of these proposals are still very much at the working stage. The government is anxious to see that undertakings are commenced to solve what is regarded as a fairly serious parking problem in Darwin, particularly with the completion of the mall within the very near future. It realises that it will take some time to construct a multi-storey car park even when commitments and financial arrangements are completed. Negotiations have been continuing for many months now between the private developer, the city corporation and the government. We will be moving to have this matter finalised as soon as we can.

826 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is a meeting to take place on Friday of this week in Canberra to discuss increasing the size of Jabiru? Is the Northern Territory government to have an input into that meeting and what is the Northern Territory government's policy on the size of Jabiru?

ANSWER

I know of no such meeting. Nevertheless, that does not mean that such a meeting is not going to take place, particularly if it is being convened by the Australian government. After all, I do not have much control over that government and I can only sling my darts at it from a distance. I will endeavour to obtain the information for the honourable member for Arnhem and let him know whether such a meeting is to take place.

I think the other part to the question was what is the Northern Territory government's policy as to the size of Jabiru. I understand its size has

been limited in the plan that has been presented in relation to the gazettal of Kakadu National Park. I cannot remember the actual area in hectares but the size seems to have been determined for us. I do not think there is a great deal that can be done about it.

827 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

This question concerns specific Aboriginal housing projects in Alice Springs and an answer he gave on Thursday 31 May. He stated there is some community concern and this is appreciated. However, the project will be proceeding on the basis that there will be a Homemaker Service established which will be run by the Department of Community Development. Given the 2 undertakings, why has the Aboriginal housing program not proceeded according to plan but, in fact, has been quite radically altered?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the program is proceeding. At present, there are 10 houses being completed for the program and there have been additional lots set aside for future stages of the program. Contrary to what the honourable member implies, it is not surprising that there have been changes to the original concept of the program. The original proposal was put forward something like 12 months ago and it has been changed a number of times since then. However, it is proceeding and we would hope that, by the time the houses are completed, the tenants will have been screened through the process which is being established and will be installed.

828 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has the Northern Territory government any definite long-term plans for a continuous supply to Darwin of sand, soil and gravel and are there any details available?

ANSWER

There are alternative supplies of sand and gravel available. I will answer the question in detail later in this sittings.

829 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

To allay the fears of residents of Mount Wells, could he advise whether there is any truth in the rumour that the government battery could be taken over by private industry?

ANSWER

I wish it was not a rumour but a fact. I believe that, if the battery was taken over by private enterprise and run as in the states by private individuals on a contract basis to the gouger and, in some cases, with help from the government, it would be a very acceptable proposition to us. To answer the honourable member's question, I know of no proposal to have the battery farmed out to anybody. If the honourable member has any information, would he please bring it to me so that we can encourage the proponent.

830 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In a statement in May which outlined plans to provide 2 new childcare

centres in the northern suburbs of Darwin, the minister said that the Corporation of the City of Darwin would be responsible for their construction and that Darwin Family Centres would be responsible for their administration. Will the minister now confirm this commitment regarding the administration of those centres?

ANSWER

There was a press release issued earlier this year that did state that I had said that the government would provide funds for the corporation to build 2 childcare centres: one in Nightcliff and one in Casuarina. At that time, the land had not been selected for the Casuarina site and, consequently, no real direction was given by me other than an agreement that maybe it would be a good idea that the day-care centre should operate both of the creches. After I had made that statement, the Corporation of the City of Darwin requested that the one that I had allocated to them in Nightcliff be run by them. They wanted to hold their option open for the second one in Casuarina to be run by, presumably, another organisation. I believe that, in the last couple of months, there has been some consternation between the day-care centre organisation and the council as to who will run the second creche. I am unable to give the council any direction by virtue of the fact that they will be responsible. Any ultimate decision for that second creche will be the council's.

831 Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Following the recent success of over-the-counter sales of residential land in Alice Springs and a public auction of industrial land, can the minister advise when the next sale of industrial land in Alice Springs will take place and by what method it will be offered for sale?

ANSWER

There is additional industrial land in Alice Springs which is to be offered to the public in the near future. I cannot think of the specific numbers of blocks but I have instructed the department to institute the necessary action to auction a small number of blocks in the area where it is expected that the demand will be fairly high and to place under the over-the-counter sales system larger numbers of industrial blocks in the Power Street subdivision. The reason I have decided to separate the 2 groups was that the over-the-counter sale system was extremely successful in Alice Springs. However, it can only work where there is a supply that outstrips demand when the initial blocks are offered. With the smaller number of blocks I was referring to closer to the centre of Alice Springs, it is expected that quite a large number of people could be interested in them. The only fair way would be to auction those blocks. However, the persons in Alice Springs interested in obtaining industrial land can be heartened with the news that, within 2 months, all of these lots will be on sale.

832 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware that rental housing in Alice Springs is now almost impossible to obtain and that accommodation for tourists in Alice Springs is also at a premium? Is he able to assure the 159 families who are waiting for homes and the 102 applicants for flats that the government will take immediate action to ease the critical housing shortage in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

I would suggest that the honourable member await the introduction of the government's budget tomorrow. However, it is not all bad news. The fact that there is a shortage of tourist accommodation in Alice Springs and a shortage of general rental accommodation is obviously a much better situation than one where there is a surplus of both. Alice Springs has picked up from a short period of almost zero growth. It may even have gone backwards a little. I believe that it is partly as a result of this government's initiatives that Alice Springs will take off like the rest of the Northern Territory. We will be doing our very best to meet the needs of the people with the government resources we have available.

833 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can the minister advise me if it is correct that there is insufficient staff to adequately service the Darwin Hospital?

ANSWER

I noted with interest the remarks made in the press the other day concerning staff shortages at the Darwin Hospital. They do not bear much relationship to the truth. When the Northern Territory government assumed the responsibility for health, there were some 995 people on the staff at the Darwin Hospital. Today, there are 1,108 which is a very considerable increase on the previous complement. Earlier, the hospital had 113 part-time and inoperative staff members which compounded their problem. Today, they are not obliged to do that. There is one other thing about the staff level at the Darwin Hospital. We have a staff level ratio of 3 people to each bed which more than favourably compares with any other hospital in this country. To say that there is a shortage of staff in the hospital is totally incorrect. If honourable members would like to specify any particular shortages of staff in hospitals, I would be grateful. From what I can see, this particular topic is just used as a can to rattle from time to time for political expediency and I do not think it should be used for that.

834 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Some time ago he announced that 10 positions had been created for fulltime music instructors. Allocations were called nationwide and closed in June. Will he be in a position to announce the filling of all these positions soon and, if so, when?

ANSWER

I think the best course would be for the honourable member to wait for the explanatory notes on the budget.

835 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is it a fact that some of the land formerly held under a town land subdivision lease by the Hooker Corporation for the purpose of developing the Brinkin subdivision is now to be used for the development of executive housing instead of as an addition to the Darwin Community College campus?

ANSWER

I know of no proposal to have executive housing placed in the Brinkin area. However, that is not to say that such proposals have not been looked at. There is a very large area of land concerned. There is a range of uses which will be able to go into the area that will still allow for the accommodation of the needs of the Darwin Community College, the development of the foreshore, the development of Rapid Creek lake, a possible caravan park and also provide a significant buffer zone back from the cliff tops for public recreation and open space. The honourable member's implication, despite my earlier assurance, that the Darwin Community College is going to miss out on additional land is simply mischievous.

836 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will the minister advise what steps have been taken to improve the situation relating to orthodontal treatment for citizens in Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

This particular question is compounded by the very great difficulty we have in recruiting orthondontists. Unfortunately, all the orthondontists in this country want to work for themselves. They cannot see the point in working for the government at a third of the salary and doing twice the work. We have been successful in recruiting orthondontists for the southern part of the Territory.

There is also a proposal to provide visits by Darwin orthodontists to both Katherine and Nhulunbuy when the opportunity permits. Unfortunately, it will not be possible for a great deal of work to be carried out in these particular centres and the orthondontists' trips will mainly be inspectorial to assess patients and advise them on treatment. They will go to Darwin or Alice for that particular treatment because the provision of equipment for orthodontists in surgeries is a very costly and expensive business and they are not the sort of things we will be setting up all over the Territory.

837 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

The minister will be aware of dissatisfaction among nursing students at the increase in rental charges for their hospital accommodation. Will the minister undertake to provide rental subsidies for nursing students in the same way that apprentices in the Electricity Commission receive substantial rental subsidies for their hostel accommodation.

ANSWER

The honourable member raises a point that is a little more complex than would appear on the surface. I note that the honourable member compares the rental issue for student nurses working in the hospitals of the Northern Territory with the apprentices and trainees within NTEC. There is a slight difference in that the Health Department provides not only accommodation but 3 meals a day for boarders. In the case of NTEC, that additional service is not provided. Rather than go into the issues this morning, I will collect the information that I obtained for the student nurses recently which tries to put the whole issue of rental increases into perspective. This relates not only to the costs in other hospitals but the increases in salaries that they have had within the Northern Territory in recent months.

839 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Could he advise on the future use of Carpentaria College?

ANSWER

The Carpentaria College issue has been a very long and sad one. However, I am pleased to announce now that negotiations have been completed with the liquidator for the final transfer of the lease documents and outstanding financial matters which have been a problem for a considerable period now. The government has made a certain payment to the liquidator in settlement of the whole issue. The government is about to advertise inviting expressions of interest from parties who would seek to use the building or redevelop it. The government will consider those applications when received and make a decision on the future use.

840 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Could he inform this Assembly the reasons why he apparently reversed the order of priorities of the Darwin Community College's submission to the Tertiary Education Commission relating to capital works?

ANSWER

Let me say at the outset that I did not reverse the Darwin Community College's priorities. I cannot do that; that is a matter for the Darwin Community College. Having advance knowledge of the Commonwealth government's guidelines for the Tertiary Education Commission, I indicated the government's priorities in respect of technical, further and advanced education for the Northern Territory.

There is absolutely no point whatever in the government indicating government priorities to the Tertiary Education Commission, knowing in advance that, by doing so, we would get absolutely no money whatsoever from the Tertiary Education Commission. I assume that this relates particularly to the Winnellie campus, which was established as a result of the cyclone damage to the Darwin Community College. In our view, the Commonwealth had a responsibility to make good that damage and to consolidate the campus.

It is the intention of the Northern Territory government to continue making application to the Commonwealth for additional funding for the consolidation of the Casuarina campus. As far as the Northern Territory government is concerned, we place the highest priority commensurate with our resources upon the consolidation of that campus. It is indeed a credit to the staff and the students that they have maintained the standards they have using those most inadequate facilities at Winnellie. Nevertheless, priorities around the Territory are indicated by many people to the government. I certainly accept what I hear from the people of the Community College of Central Australia that they would be delighted to have the facilities of the standard obtaining at the Winnellie campus. The people of Alice Springs claim that their facilities are even worse and I accept that. Everyone who comes to a minister and makes application for a project genuinely believes that their project should have the highest priority in the government's mind. The government recognises nonetheless the most essential requirement of the Darwin Community College is to get out of the Winnellie area and consolidate its campus as a proper unified community college servicing Darwin and the Top End. We have asked the

Department of Transport and Works, in conjunction with the Darwin Community College, to proceed with the development of plans towards the consolidation of that campus. This is now going on.

There are 3 main things which need to be done. The first is to move the School of Business Administration, the Learning Resources Centre and also the School of General Studies which apparently are carried on in most inadequate and most unsatisfactory circumstances in what is little more than a warehouse. When the government has consolidated the requirements of those organisations, we will examine them in light of our other priorities and we will proceed, as soon as we possibly can, with the consolidation of the Darwin Community College at Casuarina.

841 Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise who paid for that long stretch of road at Pine Creek which was completed by McMahon Constructions last year and which has been out of operation and closed for some months?

ANSWER

I am not in a position to give an answer to this question because I am not quite certain which stretch of road the honourable member for Victoria River is referring to. If he puts the question on notice, I will see that an answer is provided as soon as possible.

842 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the government any plans to establish a police station on section 358 on the Arnhem Highway at Humpty Doo?

ANSWER

As far as I know, the Police Department has no plans at the present time to establish a police station on section 358 of the Arnhem Highway at Humpty Doo. The police monitor the need for additional police stations and a number of police station complexes are under construction at the present time. However, I understand from the commissioner that it is not considered to be a requirement at the present time to establish a station on the site referred to by the honourable member for Tiwi. However, police patrols in the area have been stepped up and there is a long-range police patrol service operating throughout all police districts in the Territory.

843 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the minister aware of the deterioration of buildings at Port Essington and, if so, what steps is he taking to ensure the rehabilitation and protection of the site?

ANSWER

The department has had officers from the Heritage Commission examine the site at Port Essington. I will receive a report on that subject shortly.

844 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Some time ago, the press carried a story on the alternative hydro-electric sites in the Northern Territory. Is there a possibility of power being

generated from a scheme known as Mount Nancar and is there a possibility of power being supplied from the Katherine upper gorge? Could the honourable minister inform us if these reports are correct?

ANSWER

Already, there are engineers and geologists working on the Mount Nancar dam prospect and it is anticipated that a report will be ready for submission to Cabinet in December this year. There is every possibility that investigations and feasibility studies will continue and these could possibly lead to the construction of a dam on Mount Nancar that, in years to come, would feed into the Ord River system.

So far as the Katherine River project is concerned, the Snowy Mountains Engineering Commission, in conjunction with officers from the Northern Territory Water Resources Division of the Department of Transport and Works, are looking at the feasibility of building a dam on the upper Katherine River. This dam could supply the means to introduce irrigation, establish flood controls and produce power to the value of 6 or 7 megawatts for the town which would cater for the Katherine demand at its present level. In both cases, work is proceeding but it will be some time before any further feasibility studies are completed.

845 Mr OLIVER to CHIEF MINISTER

There is a street in Alice Springs with a long and dusty history. Can the Chief Minister assure me that Price Street, or portion of it, will be dust-suppressed as soon as possible?

ANSWER

Although I am a former resident of Alice Springs, I cannot recall Price Street and, therefore, I cannot give the assurance that the honourable member desires. However, I will certainly look into the matter with a view to seeing that work is carried out. I would add the caution that, unless it is in section 307, it would be the responsibility of the Corporation of the Municipality of Alice Springs. I will look into the matter for the honourable member for Alice Springs and I will reply to him by letter.

846 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is the latest situation regarding the application for the establishment of community government councils in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Applications have been received from the residents of the following communities for the establishment of community government: Lajamanu, Angurugu, Umbakumba, Areyonga, Jay Creek and Snake Bay. The preparation of draft schemes are at an advanced stage and further consultations with the communities is taking place this week. A number of other communities have expressed interest in the schemes and have indicated that applications will be forthcoming. Detailed discussions with the residents have taken place prior to their making any commitment to seek community government under the Northern Territory legislation.

847 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of categorical assurances that have been given to the people of Oenpelli by the federal government, what is the Northern Territory government's policy on the population size of Jabiru?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government has no fixed policy on the population size of Jabiru. As I understand it, the town is being constructed to accommodate the workforce primarily associated with the various mining projects that will be established in the area presumably with the approval of the Northern Land Council and the traditional owners. One would imagine that approvals of mining projects of this nature would bring consequential approvals for increases in the size of the population to be accommodated at Jabiru. At present, I understand that there is a figure mentioned publicly of a population of about 3,500 people and the town is being planned on that basis. However, if additional mining projects are approved, this may have to be revised. The funding arrangements for the construction of the town of Jabiru are handled by the Jabiru Town Development Authority in close consultation with the Commonwealth government and with the mining companies concerned who provide the bulk of the funding. Therefore, the size of the town will be very much governed by the amount of money that is made available.

848 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What plans are there to establish a fire station on section 358 of the Arnhem Highway at Humpty Doo?

ANSWER

How big is section 358 at Arnhem Highway Humpty Doo? Is it one of those 320 acre blocks? So far as I am aware, there is no intention at present for the fire brigade or the Department of Transport and Works to establish a fire station on that particular block of land. A survey was carried out but it was decided that the results did not show that there was a requirement.

849 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is he aware that a report on the operations of the Northern Territory Electricity Commission has recently been tabled in the federal parliament? If so, will he undertake to obtain copies for members of this House?

ANSWER

Yes.

850 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I have asked questions previously about the possibility of introducing an interim zoning to sections currently under B5 zoning. This relates to the Esplanade, Mitchell Street and some of those side streets. Could the minister inform me if a review has taken place as yet and, if so, is he able to give any indication of the outcome of that review?

ANSWER

A review has been undertaken of the area concerned. If I recall rightly,

advertisements have already been placed in the newspapers seeking public reaction to a proposal that premises in the area which are hardly viable as residential premises any more be allowed to be used for office development for a period of 5 years during which time no doubt other proposals will come along. The intention of the present B5 zoning in the central business district is to preserve the area for tourist and tourist related industries. However, there has been a great deal of pressure for the Town Planning Board to allow the use of houses in the area as offices in the interim. In answer to the honourable member's question, the review has been undertaken. The owners in the area have been contacted by letter and the proposal is on public exhibition.

851 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When will he be appointing people to the Post-School Advisory Council and is it his intention to establish an accreditation committee for the Northern Territory in advance of those appointments?

ANSWER

I am not quite sure what the honourable member means by the second question. If she means an accreditation committee to carry out the functions presently carried out by the National Accreditation Council, the answer would be no. At this stage, we believe the Northern Territory is not sufficiently populous nor does it have sufficient tertiary institutions to justify that type of expense. We do not believe that the Northern Territory has the academic resources of its own to maintain credibility if it pursued a policy of accrediting its own courses. They will continue to work with the national council. We have been invited by the national council's advisory committee to appoint an additional person to that. I think it will be Mr Bill McGrath who is responsible for that area in the department. Basically, we will be still working with the national council for the time being.

The first part of the question related to the establishment of a Post-school Advisory Council. There will be a paper going to Cabinet for the consideration of Executive Council at its next meeting. The appointment is a matter for His Honour the Administrator in Council.

852 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of its radical departure from the original draft, will the Northern Territory government be requesting Senator Webster to conduct a public inquiry into the Jabiluka environmental impact statement?

ANSWER

I am not quite sure that I follow the meaning of the honourable member's question. I assume that he is referring to the fact that the company had originally intended an open-cut operation and, after some consideration, changed its tack and went for the option of underground mining. I would not see any value in this government or the federal government ordering another environmental impact study because what the company has done is to take a more prudent course so far as mining practice is concerned. I would think that every aspect of the company's proposed underground mining operation at Jabiluka would receive as careful a study as the first study by the company when it proposed to have an open-cut operation. I can assure the honourable member that the Northern Territory government, through the Department of Mines and Energy, will be commenting

on the proposal for underground mining but that is a little different from asking the federal government to order another environmental impact study over the whole project.

853 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In July of this year, the minister introduced a scheme to speed up the release of land to the public. This scheme was called the speedy release of land scheme. Could the minister inform the House what response there has been to this scheme?

ANSWER

I regard the scheme as having been of considerable success. There have been 30 applications received since the scheme was introduced, 5 have been to public advertisements seeking objections and objections to 3 of those are under consideration at the present time. The majority of the applications have been for vacant crown land as distinct from applications for excisions from pastoral leases for the use of that land for other than pastoral purposes. There have been some fairly interesting proposals received among the applications. Some difficulty is being experienced in processing applications in that the Valuer-General has received a great deal of work from the Northern Territory government. This scheme has added to that burden and I understand that the South Australian office of the Valuer-General is taking steps to boost up resources in Darwin to help cope with the demand generally. Overall, the scheme is very successful and we are pleased to see it operating that way.

854 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Although there is some seating outside the Alice Springs Hospital, it is set quite some distance back from the driveway. To assist patients and outpatients waiting for taxis and other transport, could some seating please be provided closer to the driveway?

ANSWER

I am well aware of the situation. I would just make a comment that the seating was not put there for people waiting for transport but for patients to sit out in the sun during the course of the day. However, I will take up with the department the possibility of putting seats near the kerb so that people can use them while buses and taxis are coming.

855 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he inform me when the Department of Health plans to open Casuarina Hospital?

ANSWER

I said yesterday that we were opening the Casuarina Hospital in March next year. One of the factors determining the opening time is the completion of the contracts on the laboratories which were quite separate contracts from the construction of the hospital complex itself. From the point of view of medical or hospital logistics, it is not practical to have the laboratories operating in the old Darwin Hospital while every other facet of the institution is operating 7 miles away. The health people believe it is more prudent to wait till the laboratory is

completed. For that reason, we will be looking at March at least before there will be any move at all.

856 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

The minister is probably aware of rumours that Mr Pellerman of private hospital fame is acting as an agent for American private hospital interests. Has the minister been able to have this rumour investigated and can he give the House an assurance that Mr Pellerman is acting on his own behalf?

ANSWER

I deducted that such a thing might have been a possibility after I saw an ABC TV program one night exposing the entry of Americal entrepeneurs into the Australian hospital system. On the map showing where these people were operating, there was a ring around Darwin. I thought that was fascinating. I do not have any proof and I have not sought any indication from Mr Pellerman whether he is operating as agent for American companies. That is possible and it is something we should establish. Mr Pellerman has been in hospital administration in his own right for quite a number of years and I do not think it is a natural conclusion to say that one person is associated with another organisation just because the timing is interesting.

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PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

Questions are printed in numerical order
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QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 18 SEPTEMBER 1979

FROM 28 NOVEMBER 1978

201 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is causing the delay in the signing of the lease agreement between V.B. Perkins & Company and the Northern Territory Port Authority, a matter which has now been in dispute for exactly 6 years?

FROM 15 MAY 1979

391 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to the NT Places Names Committee and ask the following:

1. What is the current membership of this committee?

2. How many members of this committee were actually born in the Territory?

3. How many members of this committee are of Aboriginal descent?

4. Have persons of Aboriginal descent ever been appointed to this committee?

5. How many members of this committee reside in Darwin?

6. How many members of this committee reside in Alice Springs?

7. How many members of this committee reside in other Territory centres?

8. What is the normal term of appointment to the committee?

9. What are the duties and responsibilities of the committee?

474 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is it a fact that shortage of serviced land in Katherine is preventing the provision of sufficient housing for the 20-odd people on the Housing Commission list?

2. Does the NT government have plans for providing Katherine with a satellite development area as it has for Darwin?

3. Will 5 and 10 acre blocks be available in the Katherine area in 1979?

FROM 22 AUGUST 1979

794 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has he investigated the means of making more land, presently flood prone, available for housing in Katherine, or is the answer to this problem one for the Minister for Transport and Works as stated in your answer to question No. 534?

FROM 11 SEPTEMBER 1979

858 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is it true that the Department of Education has no adequate and proper facilities for the Aboriginal Vocational Training Program in Alice Springs?

2. Has the Department of Education agreed to the purchase of a fully equipped workshop facility in Priest Street, Alice Springs and, if so, what purchase price has been agreed?

3. When did the Department of Education first consider the purchase of this facility?

4. If the Department of Education intends to purchase this facility, when will the contract be completed?

859 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Is the minister aware of the anguish and confusion among some Central Australian Aboriginal communities over the rules and regulations governing burials, which are being administered by his department?

2. Would the minister explain why he has been unable to give a full reply, as promised, to the points raised in my telegram of 9 August 1979?

3. Will the minister provide a clear statement on the way in which the rules and regulations governing burials in isolated areas will be administered?

4. Will the minister give an absolute assurance that the traditional and ceremonial rites of Aboriginal communities will be respected, and that officers of his department will handle such matters with discretion?

5. Will the minister give an assurance that officers of his department will not seek information from relatives of the deceased Aboriginal which will add to their anguish and threaten their cultural practices?

860 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is the minister aware of a letter, dated 14 August 1979, over the signature of Dr Lyn Walker, Head of the Department of Education Studies of the Darwin Community College, which has been sent to all external students enrolled with the Darwin Community College?

2. Does the minister share Dr Walker's concern that the Community College's commitment to external studies is under threat?

3. Is it true that the Darwin Community College, principal and staff, regard the position of a co-ordinator of external studies to be absolutely essential for the proper maintenance of the college's external studies program and, if so, does the minister share this opinion?

4. Can the minister give an assurance that cost-paring exercises will not erode the academic integrity of the Darwin Community College or affect its external study programs?

861 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is the minister aware of a letter, dated 30 July 1979, which was sent to the Director of Education, Dr J. Eedle, by the Acting Director of the Institute for Aboriginal Development concerning the future educational role of the institute?

2. Is the minister aware also that the Acting Director of the Institute for Aboriginal Development has not received to date a reply from Dr Eedle?

3. Can the minister categorically squash the rumour that the Department of Education intends to take over the work of the institute?

862 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What was the original completion date and cost of completing the new Stuart Highway section at Barrow Creek?

2. What is the present scheduled completion date and cost?

3. Have there been any delays and, if so, what was the cause or causes of the delays?

4. Who was employed as the contractor to complete this project?

863 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Will the proposed recreation lake for Alice Springs go ahead and, if so, where will it be sited?

2. Have Aboriginal leaders and organisations been consulted about the proposed recreation lake and its likely impact on traditional Aboriginal sites of significance?

3. Have environmental studies been carried out on the site for the proposed recreation lake?

4. If the proposed recreation lake is to go ahead, when will work commence?

5. How much will the proposed recreation lake cost?

6. If the recreation lake project is not to proceed, what are the reasons?

7. Will the minister supply to me all reports relating to the lake project including environmental studies, site tests and any comments from Aboriginal and other community leaders?

864 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer to Circular No. 79/145, with reference No. 78/2021, which was sent to all Territory schools over the signature of the Deputy Secretary of the Programs Division, dated 3 August 1979 and headed "Northern Territory Department of Education", which instructed school principals to advise their part-time instructors of the uncertainty of their positions, and ask -

1. Is this the circular which the minister described as "unofficial" or the result of a "misunderstanding" between Darwin and other Territory centres when he announced publicly that funds for part-time instructors would not be cut?

2. Could the minister explain his definition of an "unofficial" circular from officers of his department?

3. Will he state what is the precise situation regarding the future of part-time instructors in schools throughout the Territory?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 18 SEPTEMBER 1979

865 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

By what provisions of which Act are premises situated at lot 1769 Town of Darwin being used as offices?

866 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

For each of the following centres -

Darwin; Alice Springs; Nhulunbuy; Katherine; and Tennant Creek -

(a) on what dates were the last 3 contracts let for the construction of detached houses by the Housing Commission?

(b) What was the contract price per detached house in each of the last 3 contracts?

FROM 18 SEPTEMBER 1979

867 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Who paid for repairs on the new section of road near Pine Creek, which was completed by McMahon Constructions only last year but has been closed to traffic for many months this year because of its extremely poor construction?

934 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How does the Katherine development projection by Pak Poy fit in with the present desperate situation for residential, industrial and commercial land sites?

2. Has the industrial subdivision and the residential subdivision of Katherine East been deferred because of lack of funds?

3. What are the contributing factors of the desperate land shortage in Katherine?

935 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has the Chief Minister satisfied himself that the federally funded associations in Katherine - Yulungu Association Inc. and Baruwei Enterprises Pty Ltd - are not competing unfairly with private enterprise?

2. If these associations fill a community need, will he fund other associations and unions such as the Cattlemens Union of Australia (Katherine Branch) and the Northern Farmers and Pastoralists Association to fill a similar community need?

936 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will sulphuric acid be available to turn phosphate dust and phosphate rock into cheap fertilizer?

937 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. In view of the importance of the live cattle export trade to the NT cattle industry, will holding facilities be established at the wharf and will unloading facilities be improved?

2. What were the circumstances which resulted in the "Orient Clipper" incurring $60,000 (or approximately $40 per head for each of the 1,400 head of cattle loaded) in stevedoring charges in June 1979?

938 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is being done to replace existing medical services aircraft with aircraft capable of being operating economically from airstrips in the Territory by pilots other than commercial airline pilots?

939 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Are courses being devised for rural dwellers a responsibility of the KREC or a college of practical education, or an intrusion by the DCC?

940 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What steps are being taken to satisfy the demand for land in Katherine and to give this centre "over the counter" land sales?

941 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In view of the expressed opinion of the Chief Minister of the value of tourism to the NT does the government intend to lower the tax on toilet facilities which are not used to capacity for months on end during the off season for tourists?

942 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the Katherine Corporation be allowed to make by-laws ultra vires as a measure to speed up effective local government?

943 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will private telephones be available in Katherine Hospital for patients requiring them, such as a businessman confined to hospital with a broken leg?

944 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How many streets in Katherine are not up to the subdivisional standard contained in the offer of local government?

945 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Has a moratorium been placed on aerial baiting with 1080?

2. If so, is there justification for this action?

946 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the estimated completion date for the new water supply for Katherine from the Donkey Camp intake?

947 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the road to Springvale homestead be sealed?

948 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the Teachers Federation a policy on teachers' dress, hair and beard styles?

949 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In view of the need for small rural holdings around Katherine, will the government negotiate with local landholders such as Manbulloo station to provide such living areas?

950 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the estimated annual cost of plumbing repairs in Katherine due to mineralisation of the water supply?

951 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. When will a virologist be appointed to the new laboratory at Berrimah?

2. Is botulism killing cattle in the Mountain Valley-Moroak-Mataranka area?

952 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is it true that the Darwin Community College has 130 teaching staff and 3,455 equivalent full-time students?

2. Is it true that the Community College of Central Australia has 16 teaching staff and 985 equivalent full-time students?

3. Is it true that at the Darwin Community College the student/staff ratio is 27 to 1 and at the Community College of Central Australia it is 62 to 1?

4. Is it true that the Community College of Central Australia staff and council, and the Alice Springs community, had been led to believe by the minister that the change of status of the Alice Springs Community College from an annexe of the Darwin Community College to a Technical and Further Education College within the Education Department would mean that the college would receive greater funds and improve its facilities and resources?

5. Did the Council of the Community College of Central Australia seek a budget allocation of $1,435,000 for this financial year?

6. Does the allocation of only $900,000 by the government to the Community College of Central Australia indicate that post-school education in the centre can be properly served by a lesser amount than the College Council sought?

7. Does the minister recognise that the budget allocation is totally inadequate to maintain proper services to the Central Australian community?

8. Does the budget allocation of $900,000 indicate that the minister has no faith in the analysis of the needs of post-school education in the centre by the College Council?

9. If the answer to 8 is yes, does this lack of confidence in the College Council indicate that the minister will seek to change the composition of the Council; and, if so, will the College Council be replaced by departmental staff answerable to the minister?

10. If the answer to question 8 is no, will the minister ensure that the budget allocation to the Community College of Central Australia is immediately increased to the sum requested by the Council; that is, $1,435,000?

953 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Will the minister table the lot numbers and location of the houses involved in the Special Aboriginal Housing Scheme in Alice Springs?

2. How much money was received by the NT government from the Federal government in the last financial year for the scheme?

3. How many new houses will be built?

4. How many old houses will be converted?

5. When did the building and conversion program begin?

6. When will the program end?

7. When will tenants start to move in?

8. When the scheme was first proposed were any of the houses to be built or converted opposite or next to privately-owned houses?

9. If so, how many?

10. Will any houses now being built or converted be opposite or next to privately-owned houses?

11. If so, how many?

12. Did the minister receive a letter from the Central Land Council on 17 July, over the signature of Mr Ross Howie, asking for an early reply regarding several questions on the scheme?

13. Has the minister replied?

14. If so, when did he reply?

15. If not, why?

954 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Is the minister aware of the case of Emily Jako Nambajimba, who was sentenced to 2 years gaol in 1977 with a non-parole period of 4 months?

2. Is the minister aware that this woman was not granted parole even though the judge, Mr Justice Muirhead, asked the Parole Board to find suitable accommodation for Ms Jako as "she is, in fact, no criminal but a young woman, an epileptic, suffering a most serious personality disorder"?

3. What steps were taken to find the suitable accommodation recommended by the judge?

4. Does the minister agree that there is an urgent need for a half-way home facility in Alice Springs to take care of people like Emily Jako Nambajimba?

5. Is the minister aware that there are several other people in urgent need of such a facility?

6. Will the minister take action to ensure such a facility is provided?

7. What does the minister suggest should be done for Ms Jako to ensure she receives a "meaningful program for her care" as Mr Justice Muirhead suggested?

955 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Who is responsible for the metal sheds being contructed at the Aboriginal camp at Uluru?

2. How many sheds will be built?

3. How much are the sheds costing?

4. How many Aboriginal people live at Uluru?

5. What facilities are to be provided in the sheds?

6. What advice was sought from the Aboriginal community and from experts on Aboriginal housing before work on the sheds was started?

7. Does the minister consider that the sheds are appropriate housing for the Aboriginal people at Uluru?

8. What plans for Aboriginal housing are contained within the proposed Yulara Village?

956 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

(a) Who are the members of the Oral History Committee?

(b) What are their qualifications?

(c) What are the terms of reference of the committee?

(d) Where is it intended that the material collected be stored?

(e) Is it intended that this material be available for use (e.g. in publications) and, if so, is the donor's permission obtained?

(f) Do interviewers receive any training?

(g) In selecting interviewees, what efforts are made to minimise biases in the collection towards certain periods or events, districts or racial groups?

957 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How and when will the new director of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission be selected?

2. What qualifications will be required for the position?

3. What will the salary be?

4. Can the minister give an assurance that the government will make every endeavour and advertise internationally to get the best possible person for the job?

5. Who will be on the selection panel for the position?

958 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Does he agree that there is an urgent need for an Aboriginal vocational training facility at the Community College of Central Australia?

2. Did the minister inspect a facility in Priest Street, Alice Springs, called "Sportorama" and agree that this would meet the needs of an Aboriginal vocational training facility?

3. Was the building valued and, if so, how much was it valued at?

4. Did the minister agree that the property should be acquired for Aboriginal vocational training purposes and that acquisition should be made in this financial year?

5. Is there an allocation in the Budget for acquiring this facility and, if not, why?

6. Will the minister ask Cabinet to ensure that the premises are acquired this financial year?

268 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Did the Prime Minister write to the Chief Minister during 1978 concerning the proposal by the Heritage Commission to proclaim the Alligator Rivers region as part of the national heritage?

2. If so, on what dates?

3. Did the Chief Minister respond?

4. If so, on what dates?

5. Did the Chief Minister object to the proposal?

6. If so, on what terms?

ANSWER

1. No. A letter concerning such a proposal was, however, addressed to the Chief Minister by the Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development.

2. The letter referred to in 1 was receiving during November 1978.

3. Yes.

4. 4, 12 and 18 December 1978.

5. Yes.

6. Formal objections were lodged against the proposed listing of the Alligator Rivers region as a whole and a number of smaller areas inside the region because the proposal, in general, did not conform with the requirements of the Australian Heritage Commission Act.

312 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has a decision been taken on the type of vehicle which will replace the present Holden pursuit vehicles of the Traffic Branch?

2. Will these vehicles be air-conditioned?

3. Has consideration been given by the department to supplying its officers with personal sidearms instead of the current practice of officers purchasing their own sidearms?

ANSWER

1. The Police Force will replace 8 of its traffic pursuit vehicles this financial year. A specification has been drawn up and depending on the price and availability of vehicles which conform to the specification, a decision will be taken at that time as to the type and brand of vehicle to be purchased.

2. Yes.

3. Officers who purchase their own firearms do so of their own free will. However, there are ample firearms available for issue if and as required.

343 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can the minister advise the current position of the $150,000 advanced by the NT government to V.B. Quinton?

ANSWER

No funds have been repaid to date. A statement of affairs has been supplied to the Northern Territory Development Corporation by the receiver of NADC but cannot be finalised until all creditors and debtors are cleared.

488 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many adults currently live on each of the Aboriginal settlements and missions in the Northern Territory?

2. How many adults are currently employed on each of the Aboriginal settlements and missions in the Northern Territory?

3. How many adults are currently in receipt of unemployment benefits on each of the Aboriginal settlements and missions in the Northern Territory?

4. How often are updated statistics collected on the above questions?

ANSWER

1. The following statistics provided by the Australian Bureau of
- Statistics extracted from the hand tabulations of the 1976 census
2. provides the closest answer available to parts 1 and 2 of question 488.

Hand tabulation - Aboriginals, 18 years and over

Bagot	132	Hermannsburg	265
Amoonguna	115	Hooker Creek	307
Angurugu	263	Maningrida	240
Areyonga	136	Melville Island	146
Bathurst Island	408	Milingimbi	257
Beswick/Bamyili	293	Ngukurr	113
Borroloola	160	Numbulwar	158
Croker Island	132	Oenpelli	223
Daly River	220	Papunya	220
Delissaville	74	Port Keats	401
Docker River	146	Santa Teresa	244
Galawinku	416	Umbakumba	158
Garden Point	117	Yirrkala	264
Goulburn Island	115	Yuendumu	404
Haasts Bluff	85		

1976 Census - Details of persons residents in Northern Territory Aboriginal Communities

	Aboriginal population	Persons 18 years and over	Total persons	Employed persons 15 years and over
Bagot	296	138	312	68
Amoonguna	199	128	227	61
Angurugu	573	314	700	158
Areyonga	253	160	291	80
Bathurst Island	758	476	895	305
Beswick/Bamyili	566	352	675	180
Borroloola	268	231	370	76
Croker Island	214	152	244	76
Daly River	306	241	430	132
Delissaville	172	112	214	52
Docker River	251	164	275	55
Galawinku	726	515	987	447
Garden Point	207	141	243	99
Goulburn Island	208	134	243	82
Haasts Bluff	163	120	178	48
Hermannsburg	608	316	694	64
Hooker Creek	542	361	616	164
Maningrida	520	319	660	191
Melville Island	246	178	299	94
Milingimbi	605	298	677	137
Ngukurr	228	123	250	66
Numbulwar	330	192	378	92
Oenpelli	447	264	508	128
Papunya	399	261	455	107
Port Keats	819	442	882	268
Santa Teresa	536	282	579	154
Umbakumba	334	188	371	85
Yirrkala	532	325	647	188
Yuendumu	711	495	875	170

3. The Department of Social Security has provided the following answer to part 3 of question 488:

"I must apologise for the delay in answering your letter of 17 May 1979 requesting details of the number of adults currently in receipt of unemployment benefits in Aboriginal settlements in the Northern Territory.

This department does not keep separate figures on unemployment benefits paid to Aboriginals as against non-Aboriginals, but it can be estimated that the current figure would be 1,200."

4. The Bureau of Statistics has advised that statistics are updated at 5 year intervals.

The honourable Leader of the Opposition should note that this information was obtained from Commonwealth government departments not under the control of the NT government and I would ask him and other members to observe Standing Order No. 91 in the future.

531 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Does the Department of Primary Industry have a program of field days and like functions to assist in disseminating knowledge to

farmers and pastoralists?

(b) If there is a program, can it be made public?

(c) What field days or encouragement groups are planned for small farmers with interests in pigs, goats, poultry, small farming machinery, vegetable growing, flower production, fruit tree growing and horticultural pests?

(d) If there is no program of field days to assist primary producers, why not?

ANSWER

(a) Yes. The 1979 program included:

Upper Adelaide River Experiment Station - 22 February
Katherine area - 7 April
Douglas Daly Experiment Station - 4 May
Berrimah Experiment Farm/Laboratory - 14-15 September
Coastal plains district (buffaloes) - Date to be notified.
In addition, a number of short field visits, by smaller groups, are organised as opportunities arise and exhibits are arranged for shows at the major towns.

(b) Field days are always publicised well in advance throughout the media.

(c) The planning for the Berrimah Open Day will include the interests of small farmers. The Division of Primary Industry also provides encouragement through its normal extension activities and on request.

(d) Not applicable.

I would like to stress that experiment farms and research stations are normally open to the public and that the public should not feel that they must wait for an open day to visit the station.

587 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) What measures are intended to control or eradicate noxious weeds such as parkinsonia, mimosa, salvinia, water hyacinth and many others in the Territory?

(b) Is it a fact that mimosa was virtually eradicated in the NT when the program was stopped?

(c) Is it a fact that the Department of Primary Industry has only one weeds agronomist who has 2, possibly 3, assistants?

ANSWER

(a) Chemical, mechanical or biological measures appropriate to the weed species concerned are being used and will continue to be used to eradicate or control noxious weeds in the Territory.

(b) No.

(c) The Department of Primary Production has one full-time weeds agronomist, who handles survey, research and legislation, although recently the former district agronomist position in Katherine was

redeployed to work full-time on the sida weed problem in the district.

Weed control field activities are conducted by technical and labouring staff with up to 3 technical staff and 3 labouring staff being available on a part-time basis.

590 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will he set up an authority to enable regular consultations between meat processors and producers to take place for the benefit of the Territory cattle industry as a whole?

ANSWER

My department has been examining this matter for some time and has concluded that a statutory authority of the type found in Queensland and in New South Wales would be expensive to operate and would bring relatively few benefits to the Northern Territory beef industry.

I consider that the Territory beef industry would be far better served by the formation of a consultative committee comprising all sectors of the industry which would provide a forum for liaison and open discussion of beef industry problems which are of specific relevance to the Territory.

My department is presently drawing up terms of reference for the operation of such a committee and I hope soon to be able to discuss the details with industry.

602 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has a form recently been introduced at Darwin Hospital which requires the husband of a married woman seeking an abortion to sign a statement indicating his consent?

2. Was the form drafted by the Attorney-General's Department?

3. Is there any legal necessity for a husband's consent to be obtained before a married woman can obtain an abortion in the NT? If so, please provide details.

4. If the answer to 3 is yes, why has such consent in writing not been obtained previously?

5. If the answer to 3 is no, why is such consent now required?

6. Is the husband's consent required either by the hospital, or in law, or both, in the case of a married woman living separately from her husband?

ANSWER

1. Yes. The form was introduced in 1978. Provision is made in the form for the consent of a husband, but that consent is not a requirement.

2. No.

3. No.

4. Not applicable.

5. See answer to question 1.

6. See answer to question 1.

629 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Could the minister provide accurate figures on crop development programs at Katherine and Upper Adelaide River experimental farms?

2. Were they a success?

ANSWER

It is assumed that the question refers to the bulk cropping program at each station.

At Katherine Experiment Farm, 8 ha of mungbean, variety Berken, were grown, and produced an average yield of 550 kg/ha. Although this was among the best mungbean crops produced in the past season at Katherine, the result is not regarded by the agronomists concerned as satisfactory.

The lower than hoped for yields could be attributed to the early cut out of the wet season and to the fact that agronomic recommendations, although based on the best information available, were sub-optimal.

Experimental work performed last year has resulted in an alteration to recommendations on planting times and sowing rates which will allow an improved expression of yield potential in the future

At the Upper Adelaide River Experiment Station, a total of 31.5 ha of rice was grown, yielding an average of 3.4 t/ha.

This was made up as follows:

Rice variety	Area	Yield (t/ha)
IR 22	10 ha	4.34
IR 26	1.7 ha	4.24
IR 8	9.2 ha	3.39
IR 661	6 ha	3.4
Bluebonnet	2.3 ha	2.1

These results were generally quite pleasing, the only disappointment being the low yield of the high quality IR 661 rice.

689 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Can he say when construction work will actually begin on the Tennant Creek abattoir?

2. When will work start on the scheme to supply water to the abattoir and when is it likely to be finished?

3. How much will the water supply scheme cost the Northern Territory government?

4. What is the latest information from the successful company on the throughput, number of staff they will employ and how soon they expect to be actually killing cattle?

ANSWER

1. Construction work on the Tennant Creek abattoir has commenced and is now well advanced.

2. Final investigation work is being undertaken on the water supply prior to design and construction. The provision of the water supply involves a 2-year program of investigation of the aquifer, design of the bore field and construction of the pipeline.

3. The estimated cost of providing water to the abattoir will not be known until the end of the year, when investigations to assess effective flow from the 2 possible sources are completed.

   Present indications are that supply may be met from the Cabbage Gum Basin at an estimated cost for extending the existing water main of $5,000.

   However, with the expected increase in mining and agricultural activities and increased town water requirements, it may be more economic in the long run to develop the Tennant Creek West borefield at an estimated cost of $3.2m.

4. The latest information from the company indicates that:

   (i) An initial throughput of 200 head per day is planned increasing quickly to 300 head per day.

   (ii) Employment at the abattoir will be in the order of 128 persons initially.

   (iii) It is expected that the construction of the abattoir will be completed by the end of 1979 and that operations will commence early in 1980.

714 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Have officers of his department recommended the closure of Meneling meatworks and, if so, on what grounds?

2. Have the meatworks in fact been closed?

ANSWER

The Department of Health has no information about the closure of Meneling meatworks.

719 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much was received by the Commonwealth by way of payments for hospital services, including physiotherapy, for victims of motor vehicle accidents during the 1977-78 financial year?

2. How much was received by the Commonwealth by way of payments for hospital services, including physiotherapy, for victims of motor vehicle accidents for the period 1 July 1978 to 31 December 1978?

3. How much was received by the Northern Territory government by way of payments for hospital services, including physiotherapy, for victims of motor vehicle accidents in the period 1 January 1979 to 31 March 1979?

ANSWER

The information requested by the honourable member is not readily available within the department without involving 4 persons working full-time for 3 days to compile it. In the circumstances I decline to answer the question, unless the honourable member can provide adequate reason to justify this cost.

720 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What was the revenue from the NT bus service for 1977-78?

2. What is the anticipated revenue from the NT bus service for 1978-79?

ANSWER

1. Revenue for 1977-78 was:

Fares	$179,287
Pensioner passes	$ 8,000
Payments from Education	$269,192
Charters	$ 50,362
Total	$506,841

2. The actual revenue figures for 1978-79 are now available. These are:

Fares	$232,201
Pensioner passes	$ 20,000
Payments from Education	$161,145
Charters	$ 20,002
Miscellaneous	$ 1,394
Total	$434,742

726 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

1. Who are the members of each statutory authority under the minister's responsibility?

2. How much is paid to each member by way of sitting fees and other allowances?

ANSWER

As Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation, the minister has no statutory authorities under his responsibility.

762 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Is it a fact that there are navigation hazards in the inner Darwin harbour such as submerged buoys and wrecks which have not yet been cleared?

2. If so, why have they not yet been cleared by the Port Authority?

3. Is it because of a shortage of funds?

ANSWER

There are no known wrecks in Darwin harbour which could be considered a hazard to navigation.

There are still a few remains of wartime wrecks which were not completely removed by the Japanese, but these are in deep water.

There are also a few small vessels which were sunk during cyclone Tracy and have not been raised. These are clear of the main shipping channels and too deep to present a hazard to small vessels. All the main areas of the harbour have been surveyed by the Royal Australian Navy's minesweepers since the cyclone.

All ports have their share of derelict vessels and Darwin is no exception. There are 14 Vietnamese refugee vessels which have been beached mainly within the Quarantine Reserve and there are several other vessels beached in Frances Bay. The Port Authority is negotiating with the owners of some of these vessels to have them removed to make way for the fishing boat harbour which is currently under construction.

786 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Further to my question on notice number 438, what extension activities are conducted by Division of Primary Industry staff for the benefit of farmers in the Alice Springs area?

2. Has the NT government received and considered proposals from officers or anyone else regarding incentives for extra production to Alice Springs farmers?

3. What action can he take, by way of upgrading marketing facilities, to ensure that more local farm produce is absorbed by the Alice Springs market?

ANSWER

1. Staff of all branches of the Division of Agriculture and Stock provide an extension service to Alice Springs farmers as an integral part of their duties. The service includes:

   - visits, inspections and advice to farmers on request, and on a regular basis;

   - discussions and meetings with the farmer organisation;

   - demonstrations, field or open days, courses and show exhibits;

   - publication of the "Alice Springs Rural Review" newsletter on a regular basis;

   - publication of agnotes, bulletins, handbooks on matters relevant to farming at Alice Springs and assistance in the publication of the "NT Rural Magazine";

   - investigations into specific problems being experienced by farmers.

2. I refer the honourable member to my answer to question on notice 438.
- In addition the Northern Territory government recently had officers
3. of the Queensland Department of Primary Industries investigate horticultural and agricultural production and marketing in the Northern Territory. Field work for the investigation is complete and the report of the group is imminent. When the report is received, its recommendations relating to the development of farming in the Alice Springs area will be examined, and appropriate action initiated.

792 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What is the name and address of the owner(s) of each Northern Territory pastoral lease?

2. What is the name and address of the purchaser(s) of each Northern Territory pastoral lease sold or which otherwise changed ownership during the financial years 1972-73; 1973-74; 1974-75; 1975-76; 1976-77; 1977-78 and 1978-79?

ANSWER

1. See list as follows:

Rogers, R., G.F., A.J. & D.J.
Arapunya Station (PHL3)
2 McKinlay Street
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

J.A. Turner
Jinka Station (PHL4)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

North Australian Pastoral Co Ltd
Alexandria Station (PLH27-31)
G.P.O. Box 319E
BRISBANE QLD 4001

The Scottish Australian Co Ltd
Burramurra Station (PL488)
G.P.O. Box 237
SYDNEY NSW 2001

M.K. Collings
Ringwood Station (PL512)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Walhallow Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Walhallow Station (PL514)
The Australian Estates Company Ltd
G.P.O. Box 235E
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

R.M. Cadzow & Co Pty Ltd
Phillip Creek Station (PL518)
TENNANT CREEK NT 5760

A.S. Trippe
Montejinni Station (PL522)
102-104 East Point Road
DARWIN NT 5790

Desa Cattle Company Pty Ltd
Camfield Station (PL523)
G.P.O. Box 449
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Manbulloo & Helen Springs Pty Ltd
Helen Springs Station (PL524)
P.O. Box 946
DARWIN NT 5794

Manbulloo & Helen Springs Pty Ltd
Manbulloo Station (PL525)
P.O. Box 946
DARWIN NT 5794

Nutwood Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Nutwood Downs Station (PL526)
P.O. Box 946
DARWIN NT 5794

Ord River Pty Ltd
Mistake Creek Station (PL527)
P.O. Box 946
DARWIN NT 5794

The Waterloo Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Waterloo Station (PL528)
P.O. Box 946
DARWIN NT 5794

The Scottish Australian Co Ltd
Austral Downs Station (PL530)
G.P.O. Box 237
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Anthony Lagoon Station Pty Ltd
Anthony Lagoon Station (PL531)
C/- Mungabroom Station
Via TENNANT CREEK NT 5760

Swift Australian Co Pty Ltd
Lake Nash Station (PL532)
G.P.O. Box 697
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Rocklands Station Pty Ltd
Rocklands Station (PL533)
406 Lonsdale Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

The Managing Director
King Ranch Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Brunette Downs Station (PL535)
Milton Park
BOWRAL NSW 2576

Webb Bros Pty Ltd
Mount Riddock Station (PL536)
C/- Alcoota Station
P.M.B. 27
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

The Secretary
N.T. Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Rockhampton Downs Station (PL537)
P.O. Box 271
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

The Secretary
Peel River Land & Mineral Co Ltd
Avon Downs Station (PL542)
P.O. Box 271
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Koolpinyah Station Pty Ltd
Koolpinyah Station (PL547)
C/- L. Ah Toy
P.O. Box 2478
DARWIN NT 5794

Hooker Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Rosewood Station (PL549)
G.P.O. Box 3630
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Numery Pastoral Pty Ltd
Numery Station (PL557)
P.O. Box 1145
ALICE SPRINGS 5750

Peter Sherwin
Wallamunga Station (PL558)
C/- Mungabroom Station
TENNANT CREEK NT 5760

Birrindudu Station Pty Ltd
Birrindudu Station (PL559)
C/- P. Sherwin
Mungabroom Station
TENNANT CREEK NT 5760

W.R. Grace Australia Pty Ltd
Mount Bundey Station (PL561)
P.O. Box 3
ADELAIDE RIVER NT 5783

G.F., J.E. Heaslip
Bond Springs Station (PL563)
C/- Martin & Partners
P.O. Box 88
ALICE SPRINGS

T.L. & T.A. McKay
Kulgera Station (PL565)
C/- Martin & Partners
P.O. Box 88
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Northern Agricultural Development Corporation Ltd
Willeroo Station (PL566)
c/- H.V. Quinton
160 Castlereagh Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

NOTE: Transfer of Willeroo to:
Western Development Pty Ltd
P.O. Box 1090
BRISBANE QLD 4001
was effected on 22/8/79

Delamere River Ranch Co Pty Ltd
Delamere Station (PL567)
G.P.O. Box 2737
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dillingham Constructions Pty Ltd
Mountain Valley Station (PL569)
P.O. Box 48
HAWTHORN VIC 3122

R.L. Scobie
Hidden Valley Station (PL570)
DALY WATERS NT 5790

J.D. Gorey
Yambah Station (PL572)
C/- Bennett & Fisher Ltd
Railway Terrace
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

D.M. & P.A. Severin
Curtin Springs Station (PL573)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Singleton Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Singleton Station (PL574)
C/- Bond Springs Station
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Gunn Development Pty Ltd
Douglas Station (PL575)
G.P.O. Box 1058 N
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Orange Creek Station Pty Ltd
Orange Creek Station (PL576)
via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Newcastle Waters Pty Ltd
Newcastle Waters Station (PL577)
NEWCASTLE WATERS NT 5760

Webb Brothers Pty Ltd
Alcoota Station (PL579)
P.M.B. 27
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

J.P. Purvis & G.A. Dann
Waite River Station (PL580)
C/- Woodgreen Station
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Georgina Downs Pty Ltd
Georgina Downs Station (PL581)
QLD & NT Pastoral Co
G.P.O. Box 1113
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Argada Pty Ltd
Argadargada Station (PL582)
C/- Gaffney, Harvey & Ryan
63 Parsons Street
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

G.A. & R.D. Coppock
Newhaven Station (PL583)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

A. Liddle
Angas Downs Station (PL584)
C/- Bennett & Fisher Ltd
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

The Executors
D.J. Major & R.J. Smith
Mt Cavenagh Station (PL586)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

J.L. Timperon
Gurner Station (PL588)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Mount Denison Pty Ltd
Mt Denison Station (PL590)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Eva Downs Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Eva Downs Station (PL591)
The Australian Estates Co Ltd
G.P.O. Box 235
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

The Secretary
Elsey Pastoral Pty Ltd
Elsey Station (PL593)
C/- V.S. Gleeson & Co
7th Floor
P & O Building
2 Castlereagh Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Willowra Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Willowra Station (PL594)
C/- Dept Aboriginal Affairs
P.O. Box 241
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

E.J.L., W.B., J.A. & E.A. Hayes
Deep Well Station (PL595)
P.O. Box 249
ALICE SPRINGS 5750

Umbeara Pty Ltd
Umbeara Station (PL596)
FINKE NT 5755

Coolibah Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Coolibah Station (PL597)
C/- Unibeef Australia Pty Ltd
G.P.O. Box 816
BRISBANE QLD 4001

W. & P.B. Bright
Robinson River Station (PL598)
Via BORROLOOLA NT 5772

Alroy Downs Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Alroy Downs Station (PL599)
G.P.O. Box 457
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Finke Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Henbury Station (PL600)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Webb Bros Pty Ltd
Mt Riddock Station (PL601)
C/- Alcoota Station
P.M.B. 27
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

F.A. & K. James & Sons Pty Ltd
Tarlton Downs Station (PL604)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

D.W. Pye
Todd River Station (PL605)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Annitowa Pty Ltd
Derwent Station (PL607)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

G.M. & J.E. Turner
Garden Station (PL608)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

C.V. & P.J. Morton
Victory Downs Station (PL609)
Via FINKE NT 5755

The General Manager
B.H.M. Agricultural Management P/L
Calvert Hills Pty Ltd
Calvert Hills Station (PL611)
17 Macquarie Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Goodparla Land & Cattle Co Pty Ltd
Goodparla Station (PL612)
PINE CREEK NT 5782

Mr R.D. Johnson
Goodparla Land & Cattle Co Pty Ltd
Goodparla Station (PL612)
1342 Creekside Drive
WALLNUT CREEK California 94596

Mr A.P. Andelin
Goodparla Land & Cattle Co Pty Ltd
Goodparla Station (PL612)
P.O. Box 219
PIERCE CITY MA 65723

The Secretary
Hodgson Downs Station (PL613)
The Elsey Station Ltd
C/- V.S. Gleeson & Co
P & O Building
7th Floor
2 Castlereagh Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

L.J. Murphy
Idracowra Station (PL614)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

C.J. Darcy Jnr. T.L., N.E., F.J.
& R.H. Darcy
Mallapunyah Springs Station (PL615)
P.M. Bag 13
KATHERINE NT 5780

E. Kunoth
Mt Ebenezer Station (PL617)
C/- Bennett & Fisher Ltd
ALICE SPRINGS 5750

Panoy Pty Ltd
Wollogorang Station (PL613)
C/- "Ashra Downs"
ARAMAC QLD 4726

J.R. Brown, A.F. & G.L. Creek
Marqua Station (PL619)
Via MOUNT ISA QLD 4825

C.M. & R.A. Chalmers
Mt Swan Station (PL620)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Anningie Station Pty Ltd
Anningie Station (PL622)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

K.M. & E.J. Fogarty
Lucy Creek Station (PL624)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

S.L. & H.J. Goldsworthy
Bushy Park Station (PL625)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Aboriginal Land Fund Commission
Ti-Tree Station (PL626)
P.O. Box 322
WODEN ACT 2606

Andrew L. Smith & Livia N. Smith
Allambi Station (PL627)
P.O. Box 1894
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

M.G. Lines & J. Lines
Coniston Station (PL628)
16 Blackburn Avenue
GLENELG SA 5045

Tempe Downs Pty Ltd
Tempe Downs Station (PL629)
R.A. Duncan
23 Lascelles Avenue
BEAUMONT SA 5066

Lilla Creek Station Pty Ltd
Lilla Creek Station (PL630)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Bronte Norman Douglas
Ban Ban Springs Station (PL631)
219 Blaxland Road
RYDE NSW 2112

Roper Valley Pty Ltd
Roper Valley Station (PL632)
C/- Unibeef Australia Pty Ltd
G.P.O. Box 816
BRISBANE QLD 4001

First North Territory Cattle Co
Jindare Station (PL633)
P.O. Box 259
CAMMERAY NSW 2062

First North Territory Cattle Co
Jindare Station (PL633)
P.O. Box 36
DARWIN NT 5794

D.J. Major
Mt Barkly Station (PL634)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Mataranka Pty Ltd
Mataranka Station (PL635)
C/- Unibeef Australia Pty Ltd
G.P.O. Box 816
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Mt Skinner Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Mt Skinner Station (PL636)
C/- Messrs Wilson, Bishop, Bowes
& Craig
56 Todd Street
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Aboriginal Land Fund Commission
Utopia Station (PL637)
P.O. Box 322
WODEN ACT 2606

Estate H.M. Bathern
Beetaloo Station (PL640)
C/- Bagots Executor & Trustee Co Ltd
198 North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

M.G. Lines, A.G. Colson & Estate
E.N. Polson
Aileron Station (PL641)
C/- Bagots Executor & Trustee Co Ltd
198 North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Davids Holdings Pty Ltd
Tanumbirini Station (PL642)
P.O. Box 146
BLACKTOWN NSW 2148

Bonrook Pastoral Company Pty Ltd
Bonrook Station (PL643)
C/- Bill Coleman
P.O. BATCHELOR NT 5791

H.V. Leonard
Kurundi Station (PL644)
P.O. Box H112
Australia Square
SYDNEY NSW 2000

B.A. Chalmers
MacDonald Downs Station (PL645)
C/- Dneiper Station
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

McLaren Nominees Pty Ltd
McLaren Creek Station (PL646)
C/- Wilson, Bishop, Bowes & Craig
56 Todd Street
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

A.W. Cavenagh
Ambalindum Station (PL647)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Pine Hill Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Pine Hill Station (PL648)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

E.J. Connellan
Narwietooma Station (PL649)
P.O. Box 1
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

B.A. Chalmers
Dneiper Station (PL652)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Mrs J.A. Holt
Delmore Downs Station (PL653)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

H.J.L. & P.L. Bloomfield
Loves Creek Station (PL654)
Bloomfield & Co
P.O. Box 322
NORWOOD SA 5067

Hiraji Limited
Napperby Station (PL655-6)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

R.A. Fryer
Urapunga Station (PL657)
P.M.B. 30
KATHERINE NT 5780

J.F. & M.C. Bird
Indiana Station (PL659)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Mrs J.A. Holt
Delny Station (PL661)
C/- Delmore Downs Station
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

L.R.M. Pastoral & Trading Co. P/L
Balbirini Station (PL663)
C/- Mr L.R. Morgan
"Humbleton"
TARCUTTA NSW 2652

Mount Isa Mines Limited
McArthur River Station (PL664)
C/- Cridland & Bauer
62 Cavenagh Street
DARWIN NT 5790

Maryfield Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Maryfield Station (PL665)
C/- B.G.L. Killen
81 'Oceana'
108 Elizabeth Bay Road
ELIZABETH BAY NSW 2011

E.F. & E.D. Hart
Hodgson River Station (PL667)
P.M.B. 35
KATHERINE NT 5780

W.A., B.H. & M.I. Gunn &
C.G. Savill
Gimbat Station (PL668)
Gunn Development Pty Ltd
G.P.O. Box 1058N
BRISBANE QLD 4001

M.E.F. Willick
Milton Park Station (PL671)
P.O. Box 1121
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

C.M. Chalmers
Bundey River Station (PL672)
C/- MacDonald Downs Station
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

E. & J.L. Hayes, W.B., J.A. &
E. Hayes as guardian for
E.A. Hayes
Undoolya Station (PL673)
P.O. Box 249
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Allied Pastoral Enterprises Pty Ltd
Fitzroy Station (PL674)
P.O. Box 36
DARWIN NT 5794

Alroy Downs Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Dalmore Downs Station (PL675)
G.P.O. Box 457
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Townsend Cattle Co Pty Ltd
Stapleton Station (PL676)
P.O. Box 1218
DARWIN NT 5794

Farquharson Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Brunchilly Station (PL677)
C/- H.J. Mortimer
92 Mills Terrace
NORTH ADELAIDE SA 5006

Hooker Estates Ltd
Legune Station (PL679)
Box 3630
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Hooker Estates Ltd
Victoria River Downs Station (PL680)
P.O. Box 3630
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Bryan Bowman
Glen Helen Station (PL681)
P.O. Box 2650
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Lindsay Clarke Pty Ltd
Maryvale Station (PL682)
168 Greenhill Road
WAYVILLE SA 5034

J.H. & M. Keighran
Greenbank Station (PL684)
BORROLOOLA NT 5722

A., A., & A. Anderson
Manangoora Station (PL685)
BORROLOOLA NT 5722

Colinta Holdings Pty Ltd
Bing Bong Station (PL686)
160 Ann Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

A.E. Mawson
Spring Creek Station (PL687)
BORROLOOLA NT 5722

Finniss River Cattle Co Pty Ltd
Finniss River Station (PL689)
P.O. Box 1659
DARWIN NT 5794

Mungabroom Station Pty Ltd
Mungabroom Station (PL690)
Via TENNANT CREEK NT 5760

C.M. & R.M. Chalmers
Atula Station (PL691)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

W.A. & L.D. Wilson
Mongrel Downs Station (PL695)
Werocata
Via BALAKLAVA SA 5461

N.B. Hunt
Kalala Station (PL699)
G.P.O. Box 847
BRISBANE QLD 4001

B.G.L. Killen
St Vidgeon Station (PL700)
81 'Oceana'
108 Elizabeth Bay Road
ELIZABETH BAY NSW 2011

Tempe Downs Pty Ltd
Middleton Ponds Station (PL703)
23 Lascelles Avenue
BEAUMONT SA 5066

Mataranka Pty Ltd
Mataranka Station (PL704)
C/- Unibeef Australia Pty Ltd
G.P.O. Box 816
BRISBANE QLD 4001

B.G.L. Killen
Eva Valley Station (PL705)
81 'Oceana'
108 Elizabeth Bay Road
ELIZABETH BAY NSW 2011

Kildurk Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Amanbidji Station (PL706)
ANZ Chambers, 3rd Floor, Room 302
41-43 Ainslie Avenue
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dillingham Construction Pty Ltd
Waterhouse Station (PL707)
P.O. Box 48
HAWTHORN VIC 3122

The Scottish Australian Co Ltd
Burramurra Station (PL708)
G.P.O. Box 237
SYNDEY NSW 2001

Innesvale Cattle Company Pty Ltd
Innesvale Station (PL710)
P.O. Box 1096
KATHERINE NT 5780

J.P.R. Purvis
Woodgreen Station (PL712)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Illadah Pty Ptd
& Elders Trustee & Executors Co Ltd
Tobermorey Station (PL713)
N.T. P.M.B.
MOUNT ISA QLD 4825

J.H. & M.E. Groves
Prices Spring Station (PL716)
P.M.B.
C/- Post Office
KATHERINE NT 5780

B.N. Douglas
Mt Ringwood Partnership
Mt Ringwood Station (PL718)
P.O. Box 3495
DARWIN NT 5794

Merino Mining Co Pty Ltd
Dungowan Station (PL721)
25 Gordon Street
EASTWOOD NSW 2122

H.P. Walton
Murranji Station (PL722)
P.O. Box 376
MOUNT ISA QLD 4825

D.G.H. Joseland &
Estate T.B.C. Walker
Mittiebah Station (PL723)
P.M.B. 15
MOUNT ISA QLD 4825

Northern Industries Pty Ltd
Benmara Station (PL724)
P.M.B. 33
MOUNT ISA QLD 4825

Foster Poultry Farms
Mainoru Station (PL725)
P.M.B.
KATHERINE NT 5780

Foster Poultry Farms
Mainoru Station (PL726)
P.M.B.
KATHERINE NT 5780

Rural Improvements Pty Ltd
Humbert River Station (PL727)
Via KATHERINE NT 5780

East Baines Pastoral Pty Ltd
Bullita Station (PL728)
C/- Wilson, Bishop, Bowes & Graig
62 Cavenagh Street
DARWIN NT 5790

Estate T.B.C. Walker
Mt Drummond Station (PL729)
C/- Mittiebah Station
P.M.B. 15
MOUNT ISA QLD 4825

Cresswell Downs Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Cresswell Downs Station (PL730)
The Australian Estates Co Ltd
114-116 William Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Davids Holdings Pty Ltd
Kiana Station (PL731)
P.O. Box 146
BANKSTOWN NSW 2148

E.J. Hill
Cooee Hills Station (PL732)
C/- Loans Supervisor Commonwealth
Development Bank
G.P.O. Box 4054
SYDNEY NSW 2001

A.P.N. Pty Ltd
Shenandoah Station (PL733)
Hayfield-Shenandoah Station
P.M.B.
KATHERINE NT 5780

B.G.L. Killen
Florina Station (PL735)
81 'Oceana'
108 Elizabeth Bay Road
ELIZABETH BAY NSW 2011

G.H. Mitchell & Sons Pty Ltd
Dorisvale Station (PL736)
G.P.O. Box 1739
ADELAIDE SA 5001

J. Ah Toy Pty Ltd
Claravale Station (PL738)
PINE CREEK NT 5792

K.H. & J.H. Hammer
Bauhinia Station (PL740)
BORROLOOLA NT 5772

Broadmere Pty Ltd
Broadmere Station (PL741)
P.O. Box 105
LAKEMBA NSW 2195

Crowson Pastoral Pty Ltd
Palmer Valley Station (PL742)
P.O. Box 1145
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

S.G. Stanes
Erldunda Station (PL743)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Estate K.H. Dudson & R.J. Withnall
Marrakai Station (PL746)
3 Larrakeyah Terrace
DARWIN NT 5790

T. & K. Baldwin
Annaburroo Station (PL747)
P.O. Box 38832
WINNELLIE NT 5789

R. Rixon
Oolloo Station (PL748)
P.O. ADELAIDE RIVER NT 5783

J.L.S. & P. MacFARLANE
Moroak Station (PL751)
P.M.B. 2
KATHERINE NT 5780

Mr M. Earley
Bistec Holding Pty Ltd
Goondooloo Station (PL752)
P.M.B. 46
KATHERINE NT 5780

E. Davis & Bagots Executor & Trustee Co
Amburla Station (PL753)
198 North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

N.B. Hunt
Banka Banka Station (PL755)
G.P.O. Box 847
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Limmen Nominees Pty Ltd
Nathan River Station (PL756)
C/- Gaffney, Harvey & Ryan
84 Smith Street
DARWIN NT 5790

H.A., F.F. & K.H. Seeley
Lorella Springs Pty Ltd
Lorella Station (PL757)
P.O. Box 110
EAST BRUNSWICK VIC 3057

Colinta Holdings Pty Ltd
Tawallah Station (PL758)
160 Anne Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Billengarrah Pty Ltd &
Rosemont Pty Ltd,
B. Franlee Investments Pty Ltd
Billengarrah Station (PL759)
136 Liverpool Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Perkins Nominees Pty Ltd
Dry River Station (PL760)
Care of the Slipway
Frances Bay
DARWIN NT 5790

Evans W. & Y.C.D.
Gorrie Station (PL761)
P.O. Box 38544
WINNELLIE NT 5789

A.G. & C.C.W. Garland
Western Creek Station (PL762)
LARRIMAH NT 5760

Davids Holdings Pty Ltd
Sunday Creek Station (PL763)
P.O. Box 146
BLACKTOWN NSW 2148

Aboriginal Land Fund Commission
Chilla Well Station (PL764)
P.O. Box 322
WODEN ACT 2606

Pauls Jewellers Pty Ltd &
Manassie Holdings
Wildman River Station (PL766)
C/- Gaffney, Harvey & Ryan
84 Smith Street
DARWIN NT 5790

G.J. & K.B. Bennett
(PL767)
P.O. BATCHELOR NT 5791

G.A. Letts Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Curlew Downs Station (PL768)
P.O. BATCHELOR NT 5791

P. & C.N.P. Purich
Batchelor Station (PL769)
P.O. Box 788
DARWIN NT 5794

Anderson Holdings Pty Ltd
Manners Creek Station (PL770)
Via URANDANGIE QLD 4824

D.W. Pye
Stirling Station (PL771)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

D.G. & J.M. FOGARTY
Mulga Park Station (PL772)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

W. Shadforth
Seven Emu Station (PL773)
Via BORROLOOLA NT 5772

Punglina Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Punglina Station (PL774)
C/- Wardell Nominees Pty Ltd
2nd Floor, Mallam Chambers
26 Mitchell Street
DARWIN NT 5790

E.M. & E.W. Petrick, A.J. & E.C. Mengel and A.D. Colson
Neutral Junction Station (PL775)
BARROW CREEK NT 5750

McGregor A.G., S.T. &
Anderson W.R., M.E.
Ooratippra Station (PL776)
31 Dutton Terrace
MEDINDIE SA 5081

New Crown Pastoral Co Ltd
New Crown Station (PL777)
Via FINKE NT 5755

Andado Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Andado Station (PL778)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Tennant Creek Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Tennant Creek Station (PL779)
P.O. Box 75
TENNANT CREEK NT 5760

E. Milnes
Owen Springs Station (PL780)
C/- Dalgety Australia Ltd
P.O. Box 96
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

D.J. & R.H. Driver
Elkedra Station (PL781)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

C.W. Tapp
Killarney Station (PL782)
P.M.B.
KATHERINE NT 5780

R.R. Morphett
Horseshoe Bend Station (PL784)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Inter-City Enterprises Pty Ltd
Point Stuart Station (PL785)
P.O. Box 1146
DARWIN NT 5794

Point Stuart Estate Pty Ltd
Point Stuart Station (PL786)
P.O. Box 1146
DARWIN NT 5794

E. Rayner
Ballongilly Station (PL788)
P.O. Box 327
KATHERINE NT 5780

E. & D. Morris
Clarence Station (PL789)
P.O. Box 185
KATHERINE NT 5780

The Executor
Mr H.E. Runale
Murray Downs Station (PL790)
221 William Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Ammaroo Pty Ltd
Ammaroo Station (PL791)
Martin & Partners
P.O. 88
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Annitowa Pty Ltd
Annitowa Station (PL792)
C/- Martin & Partners
P.O. Box 88
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Woolner Pty Ltd
Woolner Station (PL793)
C/- L.C. Ah Toy
P.O. Box 2478
DARWIN NT 5794

D.A. Weir
Derry Downs Station (PL794)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

R.L. Clough
Epenarra Station (PL795)
P.O. Box 444
TENNANT CREEK NT 5760

N.L. Buntine
Carbeen Park Station (PL796)
P.O. Box 147
KATHERINE NT 5780

Kinlor Pty Ltd , Rundle Pty Ltd,
Manlor Pty Ltd & Jamlor Pty Ltd
(PL797)
Northgate House
Seventh Floor
321-329 Kent Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Larrakeyah Services Pty Ltd
Larrakeyah Station (PL798)
P.O. Box 137
ST LEONARDS NSW 2065

Eykamp R.D. & L.A.
(PL799)
"Medway"
QUIRINDI NSW 2343

D.V. Chandler
Gundagai Station (PL800)
"Koolanooka" Nangus
Via GUNDAGAI NSW 2722

Billytod (N.T.) Pty Ltd
(PL801)
G.P.O. Box 2110
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Braitling Nominees Pty Ltd
Mt Doreen Station (PL802)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Aboriginal Land Fund Commission
Mount Allan Station (PL803)
P.M.B. 322
WODEN ACT 2606

Wave Hill Pastoral Co
Wave Hill Station (PL804)
C/- Australian Investments Agency Pty Ltd
G.P.O. Box 3958
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Muramulla Gurindji Co Pty Ltd
Daguragu Station (PL805)
Gurindji Social Club Store
Wattie Creek
Via KATHERINE NT 5780

A.J. & M.A. Hagan
Muckaty Station (PL806)
Via TENNANT CREEK NT 5760

W.J. Waudby
Central Mount Wedge Station
(PL807)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

R.N.D. Miller
Hamilton Down Station (PL808)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Connor Doherty & Durack Pty Ltd
Auvergne Station (PL809)
C/- R.A. Long Rigby & Co
4th Floor
25 Barrack Street
PERTH WA 6000

Connor, Doherty & Durack Pty Ltd
(PL810)
C/- R.A. Long Rigby & Co
4th Floor
25 Barrack Street
PERTH WA 6000

Bullo River Pty Ltd
& Jindare Station Pty Ltd
Bullo River Station (PL811-12)
P.O. Box 3471
DARWIN NT 5794

Bonya Creek Pty Ltd
Jervois Station (PL813)
C/-Withnall & Everingham
The Vic
Lot 2310 Smith Street
DARWIN NT 5790

David Holdings Pty Ltd
(PL815)
P.O. Box 146
BLACKTOWN NSW 2148

David Holdings Pty Ltd
Mary River Station (PL816)
P.O. Box 146
BLACKTOWN NSW 2148

Sutton Motors (Homebush) Pty Ltd
Tipperary Station (PL818-22)
P.O. Box 39
DARWIN NT 5794

A.J. & M.E. Underwood &
B.J. Quilty
Inverway Station (PL823)
Via KUNUNURRA WA 6743

A.H. & M.E. Underwood &
B.J. Quilty
Inverway Station (PL824)
Via KUNUNURRA WA 6743

A.H. & M.E. Underwood &
B.J. Quilty
Inverway Station (PL825)
Via KUNUNURRA WA 6743

R.L. & L.R. Savage
Suplejack Downs (PL826)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

R.A. & J.W. Beebe
Ucharonidge Station (PL827)
Via ELLIOTT NT 5760

2. This information is available from the Registrar-General's Office, but would require a title search of each and every pastoral lease instrument. As there are over 230 such instruments, the department has not the resources to undertake such a large project without having to put aside other important work. However, the department has been able to extract the number of pastoral lease transfer transactions for each of the relevant years and these are set out below. These figures include all lease transfers including the transfer of small interests, e.g. between members of a family, but do not include share transfers when the lease is owned by a public company -

   1972-73 - 6; 1973-74 - 8; 1974-75 - 9; 1975-76 - 12;
   1976-77 - 17; 1977-78 - 12; 1978-79 - 16.

793 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware of the problems associated with the high saline content in the water supply of the farm area in Alice Springs and, if so, what steps will be taken by his department to overcome these problems?

ANSWER

Chemical analyses of samples of water from bores within the Alice Springs area show that water quality for irrigation purposes is deteriorating as the water table rises in the inner farm basin. The high water table level has resulted from successive, above average rainfall years and reduced utilization of the town water basin following development of the Mereenie supply system.

Lowering the water table level in the town basin by pumping and irrigation of recreation areas has been investigated by the Department of Transport and Works, and the government is prepared to hand over the town basin bores to the Alice Springs Town Council for this project. The council has applied to the Department of Community Development for a $1 for $1 grant to develop the recreation areas, and the Minister for Community Development has accepted the project as being eligible for a matching grant. The government will be making a substantial global grant available to the council for a range of projects and the final decision on implementing this project will rest with the Town Council.

798 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

What are the reasons for the change in the Public Service Home Sales Scheme whereby an eligible public servant can now apply to purchase only the house in which he currently resides?

ANSWER

Following representations by the Public Service Commissioner on behalf of staff union/association members of the Public Service Consultative Council, the government reviewed that part of the staff housing policy relating to the sale of government houses to its employees and has approved an amendment to the policy to permit eligible public servants a choice of houses to purchase.

802 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

When will the Bagot speedway be moved to its new location?

In the meantime, will the government assist nearby residents by arranging sound barriers or other protective measures to reduce noise from the speedway's loudspeaker system?

ANSWER

The NT Riders and Drivers Association have undertaken to move to the land provided at Hidden Valley as soon as possible after the 1979 speedway season.

As the present speedway is conducted by agreement between the NTRDA and the Darwin City Council, decisions on whether the speedway is permitted to continue at Bagot Park in 1980 rest with the council.

In view of the impending relocation of the speedway and recent modifications made to the public address system to provide a larger number of speakers operating at lower volume to reduce disturbance to nearby residents, the government does not plan to erect sound barriers.

806 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Will he encourage the CSIRO to set up a tropical cattle research centre in the Top End to concentrate on nutrition and other problems associated with cattle turn off in this area?

2. Do experiments with urea, being carried out on sheep at Julia Creek by CSIRO, have a direct bearing on nutrition problems of cattle in the Top End?

3. Does he intend using scientific assistance to help control weeds such as parkinsonia, needle bush, hyptis, rubber bush, china apple, datura forex and others?

ANSWER

1. The CSIRO and the Department of Primary Production operate between them 6 research stations covering various major soil types and climatic areas in the Top End. Work on these stations has included a considerable amount of breeding, nutrition and management research for tropical cattle. I will encourage CSIRO to participate in further research, particularly when this is complementary to the work being done by my departments, but I must emphasise that only the CSIRO can decide whether it can justify the commitment of funds and staff for this purpose.

2. Urea supplementation to cattle has already been researched by the Division of Agriculture and Stock in the Top End.

3. A scientific approach to weed control is already the practice in the Northern Territory. The Northern Territory has already sought inclusion of some of our major weeds in the national list for biological control investigations. The government will be considering giving financial assistance to CSIRO to accelerate investigations into the biological control of our major weeds.

807 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What is the NT government doing now to ensure the promotion of agriculture as recommended by 2 trade delegation reports?

2. What steps are being taken to train farmers, farm laborers, etc, now to implement recommendations of the trade delegation reports?

3. Is the government ensuring that importers of beef are receiving the "after sales care" recommended in the report of the first trade delegation?

ANSWER

1. The Northern Territory government is promoting the development of agriculture in the Territory by the provision of assistance to establish handling, storage and marketing infrastructure.

   A cropping development scheme was operated in 1978-79 to assist farmers produce crops for which markets had been identified in the Territory, interstate and overseas.

At this stage the NT Cropping Development Committee, made up of farmers and government officials, is concentrating on the production and handling of crops. Further market promotion is planned but is dependent on increased production.

2. The Katherine Rural Extension Centre has recently been set up by the Department of Education as a Technical and Further Education Institution. Students from Aboriginal settlements, cattle stations and government departments are attending a number of part-time courses aimed at educating the adult rural population in subjects with rural agricultural application. Pilot educational programs will reveal the educational needs of the rural people and the future direction of the centre. The growth and development of the centre is dependent on the rural population showing their interest by attending the courses offered.

3. All enquiries from existing and prospective customers for NT beef and livestock, including buffaloes and buffalo meat, receive prompt attention. As a result of interest prompted by the last trade mission, a high powered delegation from Majuternak visited the NT to meet local exporters and cattle farmers. Calls on overseas buyers are considered an essential commitment in itineraries of future trade missions.

808 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What steps are being taken to make suitable land available for production of -

(a) peanuts;

(b) guar;

(c) mung bean;

(d) sorghum;

(e) rice;

(f) maize;

and such other crops, including pasture seeds and hay, as can be economically marketed in Australia and abroad?

ANSWER

The Department of Lands and Housing is responsible for the administration of land matters in the Northern Territory. It is the agency that releases Crown lands and which approves sub-division of land or changes in land usage.

In establishing policies for release or usage of land for agricultural purposes, the Department of Lands and Housing consults with the Department of Primary Production to establish the biological and economical merits of release/changed usage.

809 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Considering that 6,000 tons of sorghum is needed for Top End stock feed requirements annually, will the government provide, as an incentive to farmers, $1m for a cargo of 5,000 tons of superphosphate to help establish 50,000-100,000 acres of cultivation?

ANSWER

An amount of $1m would be excessive and would not be justified in the existing budgetary situation.

810 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. What languages are taught in each high school in the Territory?

2. On what basis are languages to be taught selected?

3. Are efforts made to provide courses in the languages of the larger ethnic groups represented in the NT population?

ANSWER

1. Languages taught in each high school in the Northern Territory are as follows:

Darwin High School	- French, German, Indonesian
Casuarina High School	- French, German, Greek, Indonesian, Spanish
Nightcliff High School	- French, German, Indonesian
St Johns College	- French, German, Indonesian
Tennant Creek Area School	- French, Indonesian
Katherine High School	- Indonesian available as 6 week elective course
Nhulunbuy Area School	- French, German, Indonesian
Alice Springs High School	- French, German, Indonesian, Italian
Sadadeen High School	- French, Indonesian

2. Selection is made according to the expressed interest of students, availability of resource materials and the availability of teachers. The Northern Territory, in common with other states, has a long-standing tradition of teaching European languages, particularly French and German, which are intimately bound up with the cultural heritage of the majority of the population. Indonesian is popular in the Northern Territory due mainly to Indonesia being a near neighbour. Teachers and materials are comparatively readily available.

3. Efforts being made regarding languages of ethnic groups in the Northern Territory.

   (a) Greek has been introduced to years 10, 11, 12 at Casuarina High School where there is a Greek part-time instructor available. Italian is offered at Alice Springs High School.

   (b) There are plans to encourage schools to provide further courses in Chinese, Greek, Italian, etc, provided teachers can be appointed. My department has been asked to recruit such teachers from other states. There is only one Greek-speaking student undergoing teacher-training at Darwin Community College.

   (c) My department is presently implementing a survey of children's backgroundsto provide up-to-date information on numbers involved.

   (d) A multi-cultural education section has been created within the Professional Services Branch of my Department. Curriculum officers will be appointed to assist schools in the selection and development of appropriate materials.

   (e) Projects in specific languages have been planned, and close contact is being maintained with southern states, particularly

South Australia, where appropriate materials in Greek and Italian are being developed.

811 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

With reference to the Casuarina public library -

1. When will it be operating?

2. Will it be open at evenings and weekends as well as normal business hours?

3. In addition to public lending services, will it be able to provide -

   (a) reference information services;

   (b) services to institutions such as prisons and hospitals;

   (c) foreign languages services;

   (d) services to industry;

   (e) services to the housebound and to country borrowers; and

   (f) audio-visual services?

4. What will be its level of staffing?

ANSWER

1. It is expected that the library will open for the public late January or early February 1980 depending on the completion of the building and the time taken for shelving, furniture and stock to be installed.

2. It is proposed to open the library on Wednesday and Friday evenings and Saturday morning in addition to normal daily hours. The proposed hours of opening are:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday	-	10.00 am - 5.00 pm
Wednesday	-	12.00 am - 7.00 pm
Friday	-	10.00 am - 9.00 pm
Saturday	-	10.00 am - 1.00 pm

   A total of 42 hours.

3. The library will provide a wide range of services including reference information, foreign language services, services to housebound and country borrowers, with expansion into audio-visual services and services to industry and other institutions as staff and facilities become available.

4. The proposed staffing of library is 15 full-time staff.

812 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What NT government departments (or their branches) have libraries?

2. What are their staffing levels?

ANSWER

1. Listed below are Northern Territory government departments, divisions and statutory authorities which have their own libraries.

2. Individual staffing levels are shown in each case.

Alice Springs Hospital Medical Library	1 librarian
Central Medical Library	1 librarian 2 non-librarians
NT Department of Chief Minister's Library	1 librarian
NT Department of Construction Technical Library	1 part-time non-librarian
NT Department of Education, Media Centre and	2 librarians 10 teacher/librarians
NT Department of Education, Resource Centre	1 library officer 11 non-librarians
NT Department of Lands and Housing Library	1 non-librarian
NT Department of Law Library	1 librarian 1 library officer 1 non-librarian
Department of Community Development (Local Government Division Library)	1 part-time non-librarian
NT Department of Mines and Energy Library	1 library officer
Museum and Art Galleries of the NT Library	1 part-time librarian
NT Electricity Commission Technical Library	1 part-time non-librarian
NT Fire Brigade Training Library	1 part-time non-librarian
NT Department of Primary Production Division of Agriculture and Stock Library	1 librarian 1 non-librarian
NT Department of Primary Production Division of Fisheries Library	1 part-time non-librarian
Resources Development and Information Centre	1 librarian
Roads Division Library	1 non-librarian
Staff Development, Resource Centre	3 non-librarians
Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission Library	1 part-time non-librarian
Water Division Library	1 librarian 1 non-librarian

838 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

Re: Australian Frontier

1. How much money has Australian Frontier received from the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation?

2. Where is the headquarters of this organisation?

3. Whom do they represent?

4. Are they an incorporated body? If so, what are the aims and objects as specified in the constitution?

5. Who are the "Public Officers" of the organisation?

6. Are they incorporated in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

1. Australian Frontier Inc received $49,370 from the Department of Community Development through the Office of Youth, Sport and Recreation. The contract fee covered salaries and related costs in Melbourne, advertising, printing of leaflets, posters and the final report to the Northern Territory government, secretarial expenses outside of Darwin and Alice Springs and contingencies.

2. Australian Frontier's headquarters are in Melbourne.

3. Australian Frontier is a non-profit, non-partisan social development research organisation and as such does not represent any particular sector.

4. Australian Frontier is an incorporated body. Their goals or "Aims and Objects" as stated publicly are:

   4.1 to promote awareness of future Australian issues and problems;

   4.2 increase awareness of the implications of economic, political and technological trends;

   4.3 assist modification of social, educational and political processes to promote community participation in decision-making; and

   4.4 assist individuals and organisations to participate constructively by developing the skills and knowledge necessary for involvement.

5. The "Public Officer" of Australian Frontier Inc is: Mr Barry Johnston, 3rd Floor, Canberra House, 2600; Insurance Broker working in a voluntary capacity for Australian Frontier.

6. Australian Frontier Inc are incorporated in Canberra.

857 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

With regard to the National Esate Working Party for the Northern Territory (The Northern Territory Heritage Committee) -

1. What are its terms of reference?

2. Who are its members?

3. What are their qualifications for memberships?

ANSWER

1. The terms of reference for the Northern Territory Heritage Committee are:

   To furnish advice to the Minister for Community Development on -

   (a) the current position in respect of heritage material management including matters of current concern or action, e.g. cyclone damaged historic buildings both government and privately owned;

(b) the measures which the Northern Territory government might or should take in respect of identification, protection, management enhancement and presentation of heritage material in the Northern Territory, including the compilation and maintenance of a state register of natural and historic sites and buildings of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal origin, e.g. European, Macassan and Chinese;

(c) the adequacy of existing legislation to protect and control heritage material;

(d) the establishment of criteria for classification of buildings and sites.

2. The members of the committee are representatives of government depart-
- ments and organisations who have a direct functional interest in
3. heritage matters. They are:

Chairman: Mr R.J. Norman, Director, Community Services, Department of Community Development.

Members: Mr P.J. Wells, Surveyor-General, Department of Lands and Housing;
Mr P.J. Forrest, Director, National Trust of Australia (NT);
Mr V.T. O'Brien, Secretary, Department of Mines and Energy;
Mr N. Lynagh, Co-ordinator-General, Department of the Chief Minister;
Mr P. Wright, Investigation Officer, Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission;
Mr M. Smith, Architect, Buildings Division, Department of Transport and Works;
Mr A. McGill, Northern Territory Development Corporation and Department of Primary Production;
Mr P.G. Spillett, Arts and Cultural Affairs, Community Services, Department of Community Development;
Dr C. Jack-Hinton, Director, Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory; and
Mr B. Newton, Controller of Works, Commonwealth Department of Housing and Construction.

868 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When and at what cost did the government commission Mr Peter Anderson to do a feasibility study of the small-ship repair facility in Frances Bay and when did Mr Anderson hand his report to the government?

ANSWER

I do not have the exact details. I will provide the information later.

869 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the minister able to supply me with any further information covering negotiations for using part of the Darwin Hospital for a private facility?

ANSWER

I went on at some length in the last sittings to bring the House up to date with discussions that had taken place between the government and Mr Pellerman on the possible use of the Darwin Hospital as a private hospital. Since that advice was tendered to the members, I have had further discussions with Mr Pellerman and the matter has been to Cabinet. It is suffice to say that we are still negotiating. The government is seeking advice from the head of the New South Wales Health Commission on certain aspects of operating 2 hospitals and the practicality of a private entrepreneur operating out of the old Darwin Hospital. As soon as we have received this advice, we will be in a position to talk to Mr Pellerman. I expect to be in a position to report to the House in about 3 weeks.

870 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How soon after the government received Mr Anderson's report did John Holland receive a copy of the report and why were they given a copy?

ANSWER

This is an extension to the other question. I will provide the information later during the sittings.

871 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it proposed to establish a hospitality and catering training centre at the Baptist Hostel - also known as Gillen House - under the control of the Central Australian Community College. If so, what information is available?

ANSWER

The government has been proposing for some time to establish a school of hospitality and catering to provide a higher standard to the tourist industry throughout the Northern Territory. As Alice Springs is the Mecca of tourism, it seems logical that the school be established in that centre. Subject to agreement between the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory on the future of Commonwealth hostels, the government originally examined the possibility of using that part of the Alice Springs Commonwealth Hostel known as Melanka House. Mr Ron Gould, who will head that school of hospitality and catering, did an examination of the

facilities in Alice Springs and is of the view that the Baptist Hostel would be more appropriate than Melanka House. To that end, the government has requested details and a Cabinet submission so that we can consider the proposals of the Central Australia Community College in the very near future. Irrespecttive of the results of the suitability of that institution, it is most certainly the firm commitment of the Northern Territory government to establish a school of hospitality and catering in Alice Springs.

872 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER

When can we expect the rural members of the Town Planning Authority to be appointed?

ANSWER

I have a list of the applicants for the position of local member for the rural area to sit on the planning authority. I hope to make a decision within the next week or so.

873 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORK

With respect to the government's feasibility study of the small ships repair facility at Frances Bay, why were no other companies provided with copies?

ANSWER

As far as I am aware, many companies were provided with copies of the feasibility study.

874 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

What arrangements will be made for receiving highly infectious cases that may enter Darwin by air when the Commonwealth's quarantine station is closed?

ANSWER

There are plans sponsored by the Commonwealth Department of Health who control the quarantine operations within the Northern Territory to set up a special quarantine ward in the old ward 4 of Darwin Hospital. In conjunction with this, the Commonwealth department will be supplying to the Northern Territory, on a standby basis, a transit isolator so that people with very highly infectious diseases can be transferred by charter aircraft to the Fairfield Hospital for Infectious Diseases in Victoria.

875 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

As I understand it, Ansett has made a take-over bid for Connair and have asked that, if this is accepted, they be given exclusive rights to operate F28 aircraft in the Northern Territory. Given the Chief Minister's previous objections to the continuation of the 2-airline policy, will his government support this proposal?

ANSWER

I answered questions on this subject and made statements at the last sittings in the absence of my colleague, the Minister for Transport and

Works. I have a considerable interest in the matter because I am averse to the continuation of the 2-airline policy. Although I have no personal knowledge of the fact, I understand that Ansett Transport Industries is negotiating with Connair with a view to purchasing the effects and operation of that airline. I cannot say at what stage those negotiations are at the present time although I do know that East-West Airlines have been negotiating with Connair for several months and, to the best of my knowledge, those negotiations are no closer to fruition. It may well be that Ansett Transport Industries is due to spend several months communting from Alice Springs to Narwietooma selling its package to the Chiarman of Connair Pty Ltd.

I receive a bare-bones telex from Ansett Transport Industries yesterday which was the first indication that I had of any firm interest by them in Connair. In fact, only a week or 2 ago, Ansett Transport Industries disclaimed any interest in purchasing Connair and put out a press statement under their general manager's letterhead to that effect. Of course, the sale of Connair is a matter for the directors of that company. It is a private company and it is entitled to sell its assets and undertakings to whomever it considers it can do the best deal with. Ansett is fully entitled to negotiate with the board of Connair.

However, the Northern Territory government has always had as the keystone ot its policy in relation to the creation of a regional airline for the Northern Territory that the interests of the people of the Northern Territory must be a paramount consideration. The second consideration must be the interests of the persons employed by Connair whether they be airline pilots, ground staff reservations clerks or traffic officers; that matter has been very much in the forefront of our minds all along. OUr third consideration is to see that the Connair company, if possible, obtains a fair deal out of the whole business.

In its telex, Ansett Transport Industries mentioned that it would guarantee to operate F28 aircraft on the trunk routes in the Northern Territory and would also investigate the replacement of the existing Connair equipment. On the face of it, the Ansett Transport Industries offer seems to be quite a good one. It also gives an undertaking that the interests of the Connair staff will be protected. I noted that immediately because this point has caused some concern to Connair staff in the Territory over the past couple of days. Apparently, communication was made to the Airline Pilots Association by Ansett before any communication was made to the local staff or to the government and various garbled rumours on the future of Connair have been coming through. I reiterate that ATI has given an undertaking, at least in its initial telex, that the interests of the Connair staff will be protected. Of course, that would be a key condition that any successful bidder for Connair would need to provide to obtain any guarantees in the allocation of routes from the Northern Territory government. I would like to reassure the staff of Connair that their interest will not be overlooked by the government. I have given already at least a dozen written and oral assurances to this effect and I do so again. I hope that the Connair staff will accept my assurance that their interests are a foremost consideration in the government's thinking. We do not want the staff of Connair to be unemployed; we do not want the facilities that Connair has built up in the Northern Territory - for instance, their engineering workshop at Alice Springs and their facilities in Darwin - and their routes around the Territory to be lost.

When one looks at the ATI proposal and lifts a bit of the gilt from the gingerbread - the offer that F28 Fellowship aircraft will be put on the trunk routes - one looks for guarantees on the rate, frequency and seating capacity that will be provided. There is no such guarantee at this stage although I do hasten to point out that Ansett's indication to the Northern Territory government is merely a serving of notice that it is negotiating with Connair. At this stage, there are no guarantees on frequency. In effect, one F28 a week could be sent from Darwin to Katherine to Alice Springs and they would have kept their faith.

The Northern Territory government has indicated to Ansett Transport Industries that it is certainly interested in hearing further details of the proposal. I hope that they come in shortly because it has been general knowledge in the aviation industry that Ansett were not interested in Connair. What has been going on between East-West and Connair h s been general knowledge for months. I think the Ansett move at this time is really leaving it a vit late. We would have to see a very good proposal from Ansett Transport Industries before the government would shift from its view that the Territory requires a regional airline with a strong interest in maintaining its Territory ties and links, and indeed expanding them, of which the East-West proposal gives us some guarantee. The government's mind is not closed to any proposal on what assistance the Northern Territory government should give to the operator of a future regional airline for the Northern Territory, the more people bidding to get support, the higher the offers will go. The Northern Territory should feel flattered that it is suddenly attracting the giants of the aviation industry.

I can assure honourable members that no agreement will be entered into with any company or indivisual which does not bear in mind those 3 fundamental principals: firstly, the best interests of the people of the Northern Territory, which can only be served by more frequent flights and better aircraft; secondly, the interests of the staff of Connair; and, thirdly, that Connair itself gets a fair shake although I rather think that the chairman of Connair and his directors are well able to look after themselves in that regard.

876 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Were leaseholders or licensees in Frances Bay inviged to comment on Mr Anderson's feasibility study or make proposals and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

I will add the honourable gentleman's question to the list.

877 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

I understand that a machine at the Darwin Hospital which operates the patient register and the hospital numbers system has broken down and staff have to operate from boxes arranged on the floor. What measures are in hand to remedy this situation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it has been planned for quite some time to put the patient register of the Darwin hospital onto a computer. However, we have had unavoidable delays in this particular area. One of them has been caused by the government's changeover to a larger central computer. Arrangements have also been made for the Health Department to work closely with staff from the Public Service Commissioner's office and to assist in the completion of the general data base for the computer. It is anticipated that this is going to take some time and that the patient register program will have to be temporarily postponed to accommdate the proposal to put staff on a computer.

878 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

After consideration of Mr Anderson's feasibility study on the small-ship repair facility, did the government place newspaper advertisements listing its major findings and seeking proposals from other developers. If so, when did these newspaper advertisements appear? If they did not appear, why not?

ANSWER

I will provide the information to the honourable member later in this sittings.

879 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Following on from my previous question, is it proposed that a carpentry and woodworking centre is to be established at premises in Priest Street as part of the Central Australian Community College? If the answer is in the affirmative, are further details available?

ANSWER

The proposal was put to the government by the Central Australian Community College to purchase premises in Priest Street which was previously run as a carpentry and joinery facility. There is no doubt that there is a very significant need in Alice Springs for a carpentry, joinery and trades facility. The Department of Transport and Works is the agency responsible for the purchase of property and assets for the government and for evaluating that property. From a layman's point of view, it would seem to represent good value to any purchaser. I am rather staggered that a private buyer has not already purchased the property. It would seem that poor judgment from the private sector is going to benefit the government.

880 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Some time ago, an application from the Darwin River and Berry Springs Progress Association was made for land in the Berry Springs area. Is the minister aware of this application? If so, would he give me some indication of whether a decision has been made?

ANSWER

I am aware of the application. The organisation applied for a substantial area of land for recreational purposes: ovals, tennis courts and community facilities generally. The government has taken another look at the

situation in rural Darwin regarding land grants of this nature, with a view to rationalising the whole process. There is already a substantial area of land at Fred's Pass which is supported by the whole rural community and there are other applications for more regional recreational facilities.

The government is of the mind that, as the land applied for in this particular case is adjacent to the Berry Springs School land which has been set aside for educational purposes and related activities, it might be better to support the proper development of facilities on the education reserve at Berry Springs with a view to community participation. We are studying this matter at the present time and, bearing in mind that this will set a precedent because of the very scattered nature of development in rural Darwin, it will be necessary to look at this situation many times over in the future.

881 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Have any limitations been placed on the rights of existing lessees or licensees in the Frances Bay area which will prevent construction by them of a small-ships repair facility to compete with the John Holland facility?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the short answer is no.

882 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

After the rural members of the Town Planning Authority have been appointed, how long before the rural development guidelines, which were first on display on 23 April will be considered?

ANSWER

I expect that the rural planning authority will be able to meet virtually straight away to consider the Darwin rural plan and the objections received to that plan during the period that it was recently exhibited. Following their deliberations they will make recommendations to me the adoption of that particular plan. To answer the honourable member's question, consideration can be given to formalising the planning of rural Darwin virtually straight away.

883 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What are the shipping charges proposed to be levied by John Holland for use of its synchro-lift and how do they compare with existing Port Authority charges for use of its slipways?

ANSWER

I have not seen the proposed scale of charges. No doubt, they will be available in due course and I am unaware as to how they compare.

884 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What action is proposed to alleviate the considerable overcrowding at the Nightcliff Community Health Centre?

ANSWER

The department is currently constructing a health centre in Progress Drive in Nightcliff and it is anticipated that this will be completed this year.

885 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How much will the Port Authority lose on its slipway as a result of the government's arrangement with John Holland which deprives the Port Authority of all repair work on privately owned vessels?

ANSWER

We are unable to estimate whether there will be any losses incurred by the Port Authority. However, we have undertaken to make good any short term losses. It is the view of many people in the industrial community that the facilities to be provided by John Holland will soon be too small for the vast quantities of work that we expect in the region.

886 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

For some time, we have been trying to have the Salonika railway crossing area cleared of old railway rolling stock. The Northern Territory Electricity Commission is starting to store various goods in that particular area. Is any provision being made to shield these materials from the view of the public.

ANSWER

It is fair to say that anything NTEC is likely to store in the railways yards at Salonika will be much more aesthetically pleasing than the waste metal that the North Australia Railways stored there in past years. NTEC has a very realistic approach to the need to upgrade and beautify the city of Darwin as a whole, in particular any area where they have industrial yards or offices. They are very mindful of the need to improve the surroundings of the railway yards there. They have already started to cart fill to enable them to plant some lawn areas. I believe they have a tree planting program underway and they will increase the number of bougainvillaea shrubs along the fence beside the Stuart Highway. There is no doubt that that area will be greatly improved by the admission of NTEC to it.

887 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

My question deals with the 10 positions for full-time music instructors. Will all those positions be filled and, if so, when? Applications closed in June.

ANSWER

I understand that 6 music instructors who have been working part time have already been appointed or are about to be. The remaining 4 positions will depend upon suitable applicants. The business of music education is highly skilled. We want to make sure that those permanent officers are of the highest standard. Certainly, the 6 that have been selected are of that sort of calibre. We will be proceeding to fill the remaining 4 positions when suitable people are available. Incidentally, all of those 6 will be based in Darwin.

888 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware of the concern held by residents in the Emily Gap area in Alice Springs concerning the proposed new causeway across the Todd River? Can he advise the House of the details relating to the relocation of this causeway?

ANSWER

There is an item in the budget for the relocation of the causeway to Emily Gap in Alice Springs. I am surprised the member for MacDonnell has not shown enough interest in his electorate to ask me a question about it this morning. Because of the deterioration of the old causeway, it is proposed to locate a new causeway 600 metres downstream. On the surface, it would appear that some inconvenience could be caused to those people who trade in the caravan park and cater for tourist traffic. For example, Pitchi Ritchi is located just over the river and they have indicated some concern. However, the upgrading of the gap itself the reconstruction of the railway line and the proposal to upgrade the highway through there poses some problems with the location of the causeway. We propose to have a left-hand turn across the old causeway which will meet with a new bitumen road coming back over the new causeway. We think this will alleviate the problem. A meeting will be held this week between the government and the residents concerned and I am hopeful that the information given to them will allay that concern.

889 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the Port Authority's expected financial return from the operation of the $2m public part of the proposed small ships facility?

ANSWER

I will reply to that question later in this sittings.

890 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What additional annual costs will be incurred by the Port Authority from its management and maintenance of the public part of the small-ships repair facility?

ANSWER

I will reply to that question later in this sittings.

891 Mr VALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he advise whether copies of the working party report on teaching services in the Northern Territory will be made available to both teachers and parents who are interested in reading that report?

ANSWER

The question implies that no copies have been made available to teachers and parents. A total of 500 copies have already gone out. I have instructed the department to make available whatever additional copies are required.

892 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When did John Holland Constructions put its proposal to the government and what was the initial proposal?

ANSWER

I will provide the information to the honourable gentleman later.

893 Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

Were officers of the Northern Territory Police Force earlier this year sent to the house of Mr David Rettie who was then Director of the Industry Promotion and Trade Delegation Division to demand the return of files relating to the small ships facility? If so, who issued the instructions and were the files handed over?

ANSWER

This appears to be another question in a concerted series of questions on the part of an opposition that says it wants to promote development in the Northern Territory. Yesterday, we heard the Leader of the Opposition say that they are so anxious to promote development in the Northern Territory that they will promise people 5-year payroll tax holidays, 5-year stamp duty holidays, a carte blanche for anyone who wants to propose any particular development in the Northern Territory. The fact that the government has already indicated ages ago that it is prepared to do these things in the case of pioneering industries in the Territory seems of little relevance. We have this morning another question that seems designed at striking down a project being set up by a company together with the Territory government to provide a unique facility in this Territory: a small ships repair facility. There is not one between Cairns and Perth at the present time. If any small ships, especially the prawn trawlers that service the north and run our major fishing industry in the gulf and around the Arnhem Land coast, require a refit, they have to sail as far as Perth or Cairns to get one. The opposition is trying to knock this project which will mean jobs and millions of dollars of turnover coming into Darwin. The government did not have to offer John Holland any incentives; John Holland were prepared to do it. They do not want any payroll tax holiday; they do not want any stamp duty holiday. In any event, a stamp duty holiday would be a rather irrelevant incentive to a small ships facility. They are prepared to put their money into a brand new facility in Darwin with one of the most unique pieces of machinery in the country: a synchro-lift that can handle vessels up to 500 tonnes in weight. What encouragement is this company getting from the opposition? It is raising pinpricking questions about the credibility and honesty of the company in the press and in the Assembly. Mr Speaker, I say to you that the opposition's suggestion that it wants to encourage industry and development in the Territory is nothing more than hypocritical humbug.

Mr Rettie was an officer of the Territory Development Corporation. My recollection is that Mr Rettie left under a cloud because he had made some false statement in a statutory declaration to get into this country. I understand he was a British citizen. I would not know whether the Northern Territory Police Force visited his home or not. I do know, simply because I have heard it from the Director-General of my department, that the immigration authorities were interested in him and his status or that of his wife. That too is another seamy bit of slimy information that I have had to divulge here about someone's personal affairs that have been dragged up by this dredging, mudslinging, slimy opposition.

894 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

The recent collapse of an overhead powerline in Temira Crescent, which

fortunately did not cause any injury to persons, indicates there is a need for urgent maintenance to be carried out on overhead powerlines. Can the minister give me an assurance that this will be done before the coming wet season?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the incident in Temira Crescent. I would like to make the point to the honourable member that rehabilitation and maintenance of overhead lines and all electrical installations is an ongoing process with the commission right throughout the Northern Territory and particularly in the Top End at this time of the year. My understanding is that, during the months leading up to the wet, the commission puts extra effort into inspecting and maintaining overhead powerlines, particularly those that have not had much work on them since before the cyclone. I will obtain an undertaking from the commission and relay it to the honourable member because I believe that the most important aspect of the Electricity Commission's operations is to maintain safe reticulation throughout every community.

895 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it true that senior departmental officials in January this year expressed serious reservations about the viability of the small ships repair facility? If so, what were those reservations and what has been done to overcome them?

ANSWER

It is a bit disappointing that the opposition should attack correspondence that was being passed between the departments to obtain views as to a future developmental project for the Northern Territory. It must be to their discredit to publicly expose documents that were really written between departments to obtain views as to the feasibility of a project such as the small ships facility. It can do the opposition no good at all. It means that the officers themselves will be loath to provide information for fear someone will leak it to the Star or to the Leader of the Opposition. I do not believe that this is to their credit at all.

896 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I appreciate that this is a council responsibility but have funds been made available to upgrade Undoolya Road for the safety of cyclists using that road?

ANSWER

I am not quite sure whether funds have been provided in this year's allocation to the Municipality of Alice Springs or whether they have sought funds in this year's allocation. It is very difficult to make any definite arrangements as far as funding for particular projects that the council might have in mind until such time as the Territory budget is handed down. We can only give an approximate figure to the councils and from that they would frame their own budget. I am not quite sure whether the Alice Springs council has included the Undoolya Road in this year's capital-works program.

897 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Could he tell me whether the macropus antilopinus is fully

protected or partly protected in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The answer is yes; it is fully protected in the Northern Territory.

898 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is his government's policy on public tendering for public works and why did not the small ship repair facility go to public tender?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this is just an extension of the opposition's smeary little questions.

Mr ISAACS: Point of order, Mr Speaker! Whatever the circumstance may be, parliamentary language must be used. We listened to a speech from the Chief Minister talking about slime and so on. Well, we can cop that. I think a certain level of language ought to be tolerated and a certain level of language ought not to be tolerated. I would ask you to ask the ministers that, when answering questions, they adhere to a certain level of parliamentary language.

Me STEELE: The opposition well knows that advertisements were called and people were invited to make submissions on the small ships facility. They knew all this information and I wonder if the reasons behind this attack are designed to sway the public media to what they consider to be their alternative to the government's budget. Certainly, they rated a bit of publicity in the press but, in last night's news, the development promised by the Paspalis family got more of a run because it will promote jobs - the same as the small ships facility will. That is what the opposition are crooked on. They do not want anybody to get a job in the Territory.

899 Mrs O'NEIL to TREASURER

I would like to ask a question that is on notice and I hope perhaps that this time we can get an answer. It is directed to the Treasurer. Does this government follow the federal government's policy of issuing certificates of expediency where it is decided that no public tenders will be called? If not, then what practice is followed and what is the basis in law for the procedure?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government's financial activities and principles are laid down largely in the Financial Administration and Audit Act and the government is bound by that act. That act provides for certificates of expediency in certain circumstances but there are a number of other ways in which the government can seek expressions of interest from interested parties. Special arrangements may be implemented to speed up government purchasing programs and these can be found in the treasury regulations which allow various departmental officers, who handle government funds, to seek quotes in certain circumstances. In certain cases, quotes must be in writing and in certain other cases, tenders must be called for. The answer to the honourable member's question is that there is a range of ways by which the government can arrange for expressions of interest in government purchases. They are all laid

down in law and treasury regulations.

900 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

The Northern Territory government's telephone directory which was issued at the advent of self-government is in a bit of a mess and is outdated. We in the Assembly are the only ones listed correctly. Can he inform me when the new government telephone directory will be ready for distribution?

ANSWER

This is an interesting question. Yesterday, we heard the Office of Information in the Department of the Chief Minister subjected to an attack but here I have a question this morning asking when the Northern Territory government directory will be issued. The new Northern Territory government directory should be available within the next couple of weeks. With the coming across of Health in January and Education in July, considerable additions and amendments to the directory are necessary. The book should be available within a couple of weeks and $10,000 of the $221,000 set aside for the Office of Information is directed towards the production of that very useful pamphlet.

901 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Who is responsible for the payment of the dredging costs associated with the construction of the small ships repair facility and approximately what is the cost?

ANSWER

The opposition is well aware of the government commitment in the small ships facility. It is not an open-ended commitment. Our commitment is $2m and we have a contract with John Holland to that extent.

902 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In keeping with the government decision requiring a private subdivider in the Howard Springs area to bituminise certain roads will the government accept a similar responsibility for its subdivision for jail staff houses on Stow Road?

ANSWER

The houses being constructed in the Darwin rural area for prison officers on government land is not strictly a subdivision. The houses are for staff of the Gunn Point prison farm and as such will not be sold to the tenants. They will be kept continuously for that purpose as work related housing and will not be on individual lots although I believe the houses are individually fenced. Strictly speaking, there has not been a subdivision in this area. I also understand that there has not been at this stage any sealed access. I am not sure whether the Department of Community Development proposes to provide sealed access but I can assist the honourable member by saying that, under the old Town Planning Act, the Crown was not bound to follow the normal procedures set down for the public in subdivision work or work which came under the control of the Building Manual. Under the Planning Act now in force, the government is required to undertake the same steps as the private sector in seeking approvals from the planning authority and is subject to the unfortunate delays which are inherent in those

planning procedures which are incorporated for the protection of residents in the area.

903 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When will the members of the Education Advisory Council be appointed?

ANSWER

The honourable member asked that question at the last sittings. The position is largely unchanged. The Executive Council papers are being prepared at the moment and hopefully, at the next Executive Council meeting, His Honour and the Executive Council will consider the matter.

904 Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

During recent weeks, shortages have occurred in the Northern Territory in both diesel fuel and aviation gasolene and, in some instances, supply has been cut substantially. Could he inform this House of the reasons for this supply problem?

ANSWER

At the last sittings, I reported to the House the state of the diesel and the avgas position in the Northern Territory. Although that was only a week or two ago, things have changed quite considerably. As I said earlier, the shortage of avgas, particularly in the Territory was caused by distribution problems within the industry itself. There was substantial sabotage of pipelines in Aberdan which prevented the companies from importing avgas into Australia and they had to made alternative arrangements. The arrangements were not difficult so far as the supply of the product was concerned but they were most difficult so far as shipping was concerned. This did create quite a problem. At the same time, there were a series of activities which reflected an upturn in the economy in the Northern Territory. There was increased demand on the local front caused by increased mustering in the cattle industry and more aerial charters for coastal surveillance purposes. Generally, the operation of the third-level airline industry was at a peak because there was so much activity in the Territory. This compounded the problem so far as the companies were concerned.

I have had an advice from Shell that they have obtained an additional tanker which will be arriving in Australia in November. This should see us through any likely dislocation during the wet season. I would like to point out that the dislocation in the Northern Territory has been nothing compared with the dislocation in the states. I had a complaint recently from a third-level airline operator who did a charter from Katherine to Mt Isa. The refuellers at Mt Isa refused to refuel the plane so that he could get back to Katherine. He had to return via Tennant Creek so that he could pick up fuel. The shutters are certainly coming down right throughout the industry. It seems to me that those people who are in control of the refuelling outlets and have their own plane companies will do pretty well but those who do not will be scratching. So far as Katherine is concerned, I have been advised by the local charter operator who also has a refuelling operation attached to his own company that, while his fuel supplies are being maintained by the supplier at a sufficient level, his activity is so high that he will have shortage problems if things do not improve. My advice from the company is that things will improve. If anybody has

been deprived of avgas and is unable to operate and maintain their business operations, I would be grateful if they would bring it to our attention so that we could do something about it.

As far as diesel is concerned, the shortage was caused by a great upturn in business activity in the Territory. The oil companies advised me that the current rate of consumption is 40% above last year's level. Although a great deal of this is being consumed in the uranium province, the general activity on the stations and in the mining industry as a whole is such that it has left the industry unable to respond to the upturn. I have had advice from the Shell Company in Melbourne which anticipates that it will be able to relieve all the Northern Territory diesel problems until January. That is as far as it can look into its crystal ball at this stage and is a reasonable effort in view of the national situation.

The Department of Mines and Energy is currently investigating how our community can increase our tankage in the Northern Territory to protect ourselves against fluctuations in supply. One of the difficulties that we have in the Northern Territory is that our tankage is so inadequate that we cannot buy the amounts of fuel we need when they are available because we cannot store them. While the Northern Territory has been short of various products over the last few months, particularly diesel and avgas, we have had tanker loads of it strolling past our front door that we have not been able to bring to Darwin because they are not interested in discharging a fraction of their load; they want to get rid of the lot. If we could accommodate the lot, we would have a deal but we cannot and they just keep on sailing. The only answer to this problem is to adopt the technology of the 1980s and not remain in the past as we have with the small tankage facilities that we have at present which are not adequate for the increasing demands of the business sector in the Northern Territory today.

905 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

As far as the dredging operation of the small ships facility is concerned, were any efforts made to check the competitiveness of the John Holland proposal and, if so, what were the results?

ANSWER

I propose to raise the matter in the adjournment this afternoon to answer those questions asked of me yesterday. It strikes me as fairly strange that the honourable Leader of the Opposition directs all of his questions to me. He seems to have run out of guts as far as asking the Chief Minister any questions.

Mrs Lawrie: Your responsibility!

MR STEELE: I know it is my responsibility but, if you keep a very careful watch on what happens in this House, you will notice that he is really scared of the Chief Minister.

906 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

To what extent does the viability of the small ships facility depend upon the dredging operation?

ANSWER

Totally.

907 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Has Cabinet deliberated on what level of assistance can be offered to people disadvantaged as a result of the collapse of Northumberland Insurance?

ANSWER

Cabinet has deliberated on this matter and came to certain conclusions whilst it was visiting Tennant Creek last week. As part of government policy, Cabinet visits many Territory centres, including remote centres such as Maningrida and Yuendumu. We regularly visit major centres such as Tennant Creek, Alice Springs, Katherine and Gove. Whilst there is some cost attached to Cabinet visiting these centres, I believe that the business of taking government to the people justifies ...

Mrs Lawrie: Point of order, Mr Speaker! My question was directly concerned with assistance to be offered to the Northumberland Insurance people and not to the peripatetic Cabinet.

Mr SPEAKER: Would the honourable Chief Minister answer the question please?

Mr EVERINGHAM: Cabinet gave consideration to the question of the Northumberland Insurance Company's failure some years ago. As the honourable member for Nightcliff knows, this has been a subject quite close to my heart. In 1974, I introduced legislation which I hoped would have led to the indemnification of the people who were adversely affected by the collapse of Northumberland Insurance. This type of rescue operation was mounted in a couple of states but, at that time, the Commonwealth - it must have been the Whitlam Labor government - refused to have any part of a rescue operation for people injuriously affected by the collapse of Northumberland.

Cabinet came to certain conclusions. However, about 2 days after we arrived at our decisions in Tennant Creek, I received advice from the Crown Solicitor that some funding is to become available through the Commonwealth towards the indemnification of victims of the Northumberland collapse. As a result of that unheralded response from the Commonwealth, the whole thing will have to go back into the melting pot. I would anticipate that, when we have the full details of the federal Department of Finance's offer of assistance, the news for the people who have suffered in this unfortunate matter can only be good.

908 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I understand the Darwin Trader is due for a refit in September. What provision is being made to assure a continued service to Darwin during that period?

ANSWER

There were some doubts as to the continuation of that service to Darwin. The government had discussions with other shipping companies with a view to providing an alternative vessel to service the port. This

vessel would have been the Germanic, chartered by Bourkes out of Brisbane. That would have caused a certain amount of disruption to people who normally dealt with the eastern states right down to Melbourne. However, on a brighter note, it now appears that the ANL and Australian Portland Cement and Northern Cement will sign a 3-year contract to deliver cement from Geelong to Darwin. I hope that that contract will be signed in the next couple of days in Victoria. A senior officer of the department is in Melbourne currently holding discussions with these people and I hope that Darwin's future with the Trader has been resurrected.

909 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

In fear, with trepidation and in a considerably quavery voice, I ask the following question. Is it true that the arrangement with John Holland means that the Port Authority will not be allowed to let privately owned vessels use the Northern Territory Port Authority's slipway? If so, is he satisfied as Attorney-General that the Northern Territory Port Authority is not in breach of the Trade Practices Act in relation to its exclusive dealings provisions?

Mr STEELE: Point of order, Mr Speaker! I answered that question yesterday.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr EVERINGHAM: In view of the fact that the honourable Leader of the Opposition is seeking a legal opinion from me in my capacity as Attorney-General, the question is out of order because Standing Orders preclude ministers from offering opinions. I was asked whether, in the opinion of the Attorney-General, the agreement in relation to the Port Authority's slipway would breach the Restrictive Trade Practices Act and I cannot see that that is anything other than giving a legal opinion.

The arrangements with John Holland regarding the establishment of a small ships repair facility in the Northern Territory has been questioned many times in this House by members of the opposition. I propose to suggest to my colleague, the honourable Minister for Transport and Works, that he make a ministerial statement to the House on the matter in the course of this sittings. I hope that all the information can be laid before this House even though much of it will be of a private and commercial nature. In the normal course of events, I do not think that people should have their affairs laid bare for the scrutiny of their competitors.

For several years, the Northern Territory government, and previous to that the executive, have endeavoured to encourage people to establish a small ships repair facility in the Port of Darwin or anywhere along the Northern Territory coast that was prepared to have one. I have spoken to a number of concerns about it myself but nothing has ever transpired. Last year, the Northern Territory Port Authority advertised in the Northern Territory News seeking expressions of interest from people who were interested in establishing a small ships repair facility. To the best of my knowledge, John Holland Constructions Proprietry Limited were the only people to reply in substance to that advertisement. As a result, they were the people that the Northern Territory government was left to deal with. It is pretty hard to deal with other people if you have only one taker. The whole transaction was submitted to the scrutiny of the Department of Transport and Works.

In fact, I asked the Secretary of the Department of Transport and Works in a conversation in my office what his views were on the competitiveness of the John Holland proposal. His view was that we could not do any better. At that time, the department and the ministers were aware that people such as the opposition would come back later carping and criticising and whinging and moaning. When the show is just about on the road they would realise that it is going to be a good thing and they would like a slice of the action or they would like to kill it altogether. For all I know, it may be that commercial competitors of John Holland Constructions are feeding information to the Opposition or perhaps are bank rolling them to stage this filibuster.

The question of excluding the use of the Port Authority slipway, a pretty primitive slipway, was asked by John Holland. It was not really an unreasonable request since they are investing millions of dollars and they wonder why, when they have a commercial operation, a taxpayer sponsored operation should be permitted to compete with them. We examined this question and, to the best of my recollection, it was likely that the Port Authority would lose in slippage fees a sum of approximately $40,000 a year if the slipway was occupied full-time by private vessels. The $40,000 that the Port Authority might theoretically lose - and in practice it would have to be much less than that - would be well worth making up to the Port Authority if we could attract a proper well-equipped small ships facility to Darwin. In any event, the Port Authority slipway can still be used by people who want to use it providing the John Holland facility is not available to them. We certainly compromised there because we did not want the slipway not to be available where it could be needed due to the unavailability of the John Holland facility.

There was another proposal that John Holland made to us and, again, I cannot see why they should be criticised for attempting to secure the best commercial advantage to themselves when they are expending considerable sums of money. They wanted us to guarantee not to promote another facility along the north Australian coastline for a certain period of years and the Northern Territory government was not prepared to give any such guarantee.

I have attempted to be as frank and open as I can about this. The government has no wish to hide information on this subject at all. We are proud to be associated with John Holland in this development. Together with the landbacked wharf, it is perhaps the most major development in the port of Darwin since the first wharf was built before the turn of the century. It is certainly the most noteworthy event in the port of Darwin since the bombing and I really cannot understand this nit-picking attitude of the opposition because the small ships facility can do nothing but good for the Territory. It cannot help but provide jobs and income for this town. It will build up the level of local expertise because of the various facilities that small ships require such as air-conditioning, specialised engineering, welding and electronics. These things will be required to provide back-ups to this facility and business people and employees in the city of Darwin must benefit from this development. The government is truly proud to be associated in it. John Holland have the guts to put their money where their mouth is and we are happy to back them.

The Minister for Transport and Works will deliver a full statement on the whole subject in the course of the next few days so that people can see that the deal is above suspicion and so that the cloud that the opposition is attempting to put over it can be dispelled once and for all.

I will be more than happy to have the whole transaction debated in this House but I think it is a sorry day that, when development comes to the Territory, they yell and yelp about it over there and do nothing but try to knock it. We are forced to debate in the Assembly every development that takes place in the Territory.

910 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In light of the serious shortage of avgas, has a system of rationing been considered for all Northern Territory aircraft operators and those operators who come from interstate?

ANSWER

I would like to make it clear that the Northern Territory government has not at this stage introduced a formal system of rationing. Any rationing that has occurred has been undertaken by the suppliers themselves and I think they have tried to do it on the basis of supplying the consumers with at least the amount of fuel they consumed in a previous period rather than giving them what they have wanted. The Northern Territory government has not considered a rationing program although it may be prudent for us to do so in the course of time. As I announced to the House at the last sittings, the Northern Territory government has set up the Northern Territory Energy Council and this is one of the issues that will be referred to the Council after it has had its first meeting on Monday 17 September. It will be brought together for briefing, establishing its method of operation and so that the members can meet one another and I can meet them and discuss problems with them. Questions such as rationing need to have some broader input than just that of the companies or the government. As far as avgas is conerned, some refuellers have said to me, "Aerial flights and parachute jumps have to be the first to go". That may well be prudent but, before this sort of thing is adopted by the government and/or the industry, I think it should go to the Energy Council for consideration and a recommendation to the government.

So far as diesolene and petrol for cars is concerned, there is no program at the moment for rationing. In the past 2 months, the industry has adopted a system of restricting supplies of diesel to its customers on the basis of supplying them with amounts similar to those they have received in earlier periods. In some cases, the consumer has reacted quite violently and sought help from myself and other parties to have their cases reconsidered. I must be fair to the industry and say that, where companies have won contracts for new work and were not able to get on with that work, the companies have found a way to ensure that work went on and that men were not stood down. The whole thing is operating satisfactorily at the moment. I do not think anybody in this world can give any solid guarantee on the continued supply of fuel in any country at this time. While we have the opportunity to do a little forward planning, we should do so. As soon as it has been done, I will report to the House.

911 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise the House what action is proposed as a result of the forced landing of the police plane in Tennant Creek on 2 September?

ANSWER

Just by coincidence, I seem to have certain information here which came to me from the Police Commissioner's office the other day. In the interests of there being no obscurity in this matter, I should briefly answer the honourable the Leader of the Opposition. However, I will seek leave to incorporate the preliminary report of the board of inquiry investigating the forced landing of police aircraft VH-KTS on 1 September 1979 into Hansard.

The police aircraft in question which is the one based normally in Darwin, landed on the Warrego Road approximately 2 miles NNW of Tennant Creek airfield with both engines inoperative. The direct cause of the double engine failure was fuel exhaustion. After landing, the aircraft was found to have a total of only 1.5 litres of aviation gasolene remaining in the fuel tanks. The minimum quantity of fuel required by the Department of Transport regulations for the flight from Tindal to Tennant Creek was 404 litres. Approximate fuel carried on the aircraft on departure from Tindal was not more than 295 litres. Consumption on the flight using normal procedures at 65% power would have been almost identical to the total quantity of fuel carried.

The aircraft fuel system has been expensively checked by Connair engineers and the aircraft has since flown over 15 hours. In fact, the aircraft was in perfect condition after the landing and the chief pilot, Inspector O'Ferrall, went to Tennant Creek and returned the aircraft to Darwin. I guess he took a couple of drums out with him. The only discrepancy noted, referring again to the fuel system instruments, has been an intermittent erroneous indication in an auxilliary fuel tank quantity indicator. This fault has since been corrected and the board has determined this malfunction had no significant bearing on the incident as the pilot was aware that his auxilliary tanks were both empty before departure and he did not plan on using them for the flight in question.

The pilot suffered from a classic mental aberration known as false hypothesis. This form of fixation has been identified by aviation authorities as the major contributory factor in numerous past aircraft accidents and incidents. In this instance, the pilot's false hypothesis was sufficiently strong as to override all the symptoms subsequently presented to him. He was thus led to display extremely poor airmanship and judgment to a point where he refused to acknowledge the gravity of the situation right to the point of failure of the remaining operating engine.

The pilot was fully licensed in accordance with Department of Transport requirements and had been thoroughly familiarised with all aircraft systems and procedures during the course of his endorsement on to the Navajo aircraft of the Air Wing. His past history of employment in the aviation industry was unblemished and he was highly thought of by previous employers and associates. He was in good physical and mental health and had had sufficient rest prior to flying on 1 September 1979. The board has therefore been unable to determine the exact reasons for the appearance and persistence of the pilot's false hypothesis

and the subsequent deterioration of his standards of airmanship. Such factors as pressure from the recruit induction course, frustration over Tindal fuel availability and comparative immaturity - the pilot is 22 years of age - may have influenced his behaviour although they obviously do not excuse the gross deterioration of the standards required of a professional aviator.

In the light of the findings, these are the recommendations: the board considers that, in the best interest of the Northern Territory Police Force, the pilot in command of VH-KTS on 1 September 1979 be permanently relieved of all flying duties with the Air Wing. The pilot has been advised of the finding of the board. He has been given the option of remaining in the police force and continuing on in the recruit training school as an ordinary constable of the force. He has decline this offer and has submitted his resignation; this will be facilitated. Inspector O'Ferrall, the officer in charge of the Air Wing, in his capacity as chief pilot, is providing the Department of Transport Air Accident Investigation Branch with a report on the incident. Any action taken by the Department of Transport will be totally independent of any action taken by the Northern Territory Police Force.

I seek leave to incorporate in Hansard the copy of the preliminary report of the Board of Inquiry investigating the forced landing of the police aircraft VH-KTS on 1 September 1979.

Leave granted.

CONFIDENTIAL

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE BOARD OF INQUIRY INVESTIGATING THE FORCED LANDING OF POLICE AIRCRAFT VH-KTS on 1 SEPTEMBER 1979

FINDINGS

The Board has completed its investigation of the forced landing of VH-KTS and pending the compilation of a detailed report, the findings are as follows:

1. *VH-KTS landed on the Warrego Road approximately 2 nautical miles NNW of Tennant Creek airfield with both engines inoperative.*

2. *The direct cause of the double engine failure was fuel exhaustion. After landing, the aircraft was found to have a total of only 1.5 litres of aviation gasoline remaining in the sumps of the aircraft fuel tanks.*

3. *The aircraft ran out of usable fuel because the pilot in command failed to ensure that sufficient fuel was carried to complete the journey from Tindal to Tennant Creek.*

4. *The minimum quantity of fuel required by Department of Transport regulations for the flight was 404 litres. Approximate fuel carried on the aircraft on departure from Tindal was not more than 295 litres. Consumption on the flight using normal procedures at 65% power would have been lamost identical to the total quantity of fuel carried.*

5. *The aircraft fuel system has been extensively checked by Connair engineers and the aircraft has since flown over 15 hours. The only discrepancy noted has been an intermittent erroneous indication*

in an auxiliary fuel tank quantity indicator. This fault has since been corrected and the Board has determined that this malfunction had no significant bearing on the incident as the pilot was aware that his auxiliary tanks were both empty before departure and he did not plan on using them for the flight in question.

6. *As early as halfway through the flight, the pilot was presented with symptoms of fuel system abonormalities and, despite finally - and belatedly - determining that the aircraft was carrying critically low fuel, he elected to continue to Tennant Creek. At no time did he consider making or planning for a landing at either an alternate and closer airfield or, if necessary, on the Stuart Highway.*

7. *When the aircraft finally exhausted the remaining fuel, the pilot still had not been planning a forced landing. As the remaining operable engine failed, the pilot instinctively turned left and was fortuitously presented with a straight section of the Warrego Highway on which he landed less than 30 seconds after the second engine ceased delivering power.*

8. *The pilot suffered from a classic mental aberration known as a false hypothesis. This form of fixation has been identified by aviation authorities as the major contributory factor in numerous past aircraft accidents and incidents. In this instance, the pilot's false hypothesis was sufficiently strong as to override all the sumptoms subsequently presented to him. He was thus led to display extremely poor airmanship and judgment to a point where he refused to acknowledge the favity of the situation right to the point of failure of the remaining operating engine.*

9. *The pilot was fully licensed in accordance with Department of Transport requirements and had been thoroughly familiarised with all aircraft systems and procedures during the course of his endorsement onto the Navajo aircraft of the Air Wing. His past history of employment in the aviation industry was unblemished and he was highly thought of by previous employers and associates. He was in good physical and mental health and had had sufficient rest prior to flying on 1 September 1979. The Board has therefore been unable to determine the exact reason for the appearance and persistence of the pilot's false hypothesis and the subsequent deterioration of his standards of airmanship. Such factors as pressures from the recruit induction course, frustration over Tindal fuel availability and comparative immaturity - Hyde is 22 years of age - may have influenced his behaviour, although they obviously do not excuse the gross deterioration of the standards required of a professional aviator.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the findings, the Board considers that, in the best interest of the Northern Territory Police Force, the pilot in command of VH-KTS on 1 September 1979, Constable Michael K. Hyde, Reg No 1106, be permanently relieved of all flying duties with the Air Wing.

R.E. O'FERRALL (sgd)
Inspector
Chairman

L.R. COSSONS (sgd)
Superintendent (sgd)

T.O. FEGAN (sgd)
Associate Commissioner

7.9.79

912 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Has consideration been given to land by Howard Springs Reserve as a future zoo or sanctuary considering the closer proximity to Darwin vis-a-vis Berry Springs?

ANSWER

Consideration has been given to locating a zoo in the Howard Springs area. However, I am advised by officers of the Parks and Wildlife Commission that the area at Howard Springs which was available for the purpose was unsuitable in that the area was insufficient and the soil types were of considerable fragility and would not have been able to stand up to the intensive use by the fauna that obviously would have been incorporated in the zoo. There were arguments advanced that Howard Springs should have been the preferred site for the simple reason that it is a more popular recreation area than Berry Springs. However, those arguments fall to the ground when a head count is considered. In the most recent 12-month period that the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission has undertaken a head count, 80,000 people visited the Howard Springs Recreation Reserve as against 115,000 people who visited the Berry Springs Recreation Reserve. In addition, there is more area available at Berry Springs and the land is much more suited.

913 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

On 10 April this year, the minister advised me that the Division of Primary Industry had formed a technical working party to examine and develop legislation to control the ingredients of stock feeds and including antibiotics. Has this working party reported to the minister and, if not, when is it expected that they will?

ANSWER

The information has not yet come to hadn. I will check on the matter during this sittings.

914 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

My question concerns allegations in yesterday's Northern Territory News that Australian birds were being smuggled out of Central Australia on board American aircraft which service Pine Gap. Can the Chief Minister provide any information concerning these allegations and, if not, will he investigate the report?

ANSWER

In my capacity as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Customs, I suppose I could answer the question. The Northern Territory is concerned about cases of smuggling birds out of the Territory and, for that matter, it is interested in any abuse of wildlife conservation laws. As a result of seeing the report in the Northern Territory News, I requested the Director of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission to let me have a full report of the incident. I have no doubt that this will probably be difficult because Commonwealth authorities and the joint defence base research facility are involved. I am sure they will cooperate to the best of their ability but these things take time and I may not have a report to present to the House during the course of this sittings.

Nevertheless, honourable members may rest assured that the matter will be pursued vigorously. However, I am able to advise that rangers seized 11 cockatoos in Alice Springs recently from a person apparently connected with a certain defence facility in that area. The matter is under investigation. At this time, there is no evidence of birds being exported and no evidence that they would have been exported through the joint defence space research facility. That is all the information that I have. In the light of the fact that the investigation is continuing into that particular matter and I have directed an investigation into the other matter from which prosecutions may flow, I may retract my statement that I would inform the Assembly as soon as I could. If proceedings are to be instituted, it may be better that the members of the Assembly learn the facts when the matter appears in the court.

915 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the surfacing of the road to Yuendumu be completed? What will be the width of that road?

ANSWER

The honourable gentleman would be aware that a contract for the first stage was let in recent months to seal 90 miles of that road. I am not sure when we let the second stage but it is part of the government's commitment to provide good access to country people and the road will be sealed over the coming years. I cannot give him a firm assurance on the dates at this time.

916 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Space has been sought in the central district for some time now in which to establish a library facility. Could he inform me if space has been found for this purpose as yet?

ANSWER

The answer is no. The department has been investigating possible locations for a temporary library service in the city area. Negotiations have been carried out with the various landowners but we have not been able to find anything suitable. One alternative has recently come to light: the possible use of the bottom of Cavenagh Court. The police were using the premises as a storeroom and the department is actively negotiating with the landlord. There are 4 bookmakers operating in the same building and there is some rumour that they might be moving out. The department is looking at the possibility of taking them over. Until such time as we do find space in the city area, the library will continue to operate in the shocking conditions on the Esplanade.

917 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When is it next proposed to release land for agricultural purposes in the rural areas of Darwin? By what mechanism will this release take place?

ANSWER

It is proposed to release land that has been described internally as the Marrakai blocks, I think there are 6 blocks. The final touches are being put on lease conditions. These blocks of land are just over the

Adelaide River along the Arnhem highway and are serviced with sealed roads and electricity bypasses etc. The method proposed for release is auction.

918 Mr VALE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise what progress has been made in the MacArthur carcass classification trials?

ANSWER

The carcass classification trials, funded through the Australian Agricultural Council, commenced at the Alice Springs abattoir on 30 August. Dr Peter Hooper is our Northern Territory officer in charge of the trials. The meatworks have engaged 2 additional staff for the task. The operators work separately at the beginning and at the end of the killing chain and are objectively recording age, sex, weight, fat cover and bruises. In addition, at the beginning of the day's kill they record the percentage of polled cattle and the temperament of the animals. Both the abattoirs and our staff are very pleased with the progress to date. Although it is not a formal part of the carcass classification trials, it is planned to take the investigation of bruising further and substantial data has been accumulated. We would like to place on record our thanks to the operators of that meatworks for the assistance that they have given us.

919 Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

Residents of Mount Wells are concerned about an article in the NT News on 24 May about the proposed establishment of a heritage park in the Pine Creek area. Could the Minister define the boundaries of the proposed park during these sittings? What restrictions will be imposed in the park, particularly in relation to mining?

ANSWER

I am very pleased that the honourable member for Victoria River raised this subject at this sittings. Unfortunately I will not be able to define the boundaries of the park in precise detail during these sittings. I want to make it quite clear that the heritage park is merely a concept. The proposed region, rather than having fixed boundaries, would be around Pine Creek and encompassed by the Daly River in the west, possibly the Cullen River to the south, perhaps as far north as Hayes Creek and virtually to the Arnhem Land escarpment. Generally speaking, the idea is to identify those installations that may be of interest and value to people and to purposes of preservation. These places would then be promoted as areas worthy of visitation by tourists and by people living in the Northern Territory.

It is not proposed that people mining in the area, particularly gougers, should in any way be precluded from those activities. The area will not be in the nature of a national park although it is possible that areas of land may be set aside for recreational purposes or for the preservation of particular fauna and flora. In those immediate areas, of course, we have the Katherine Gorge National Park and Pine Creek which is something of a gateway to the Kakdu area. We hope to eventually upgrade the road from Pine Creek. This should make a tremendous tourist triangle: Darwin, Jim Jim or Kakadu down to Pine Creek. We hope that

not only will the regional heritage park concept enable the preservation of these old installations, areas and items of interest and promote tourism but that it will also promote Pine Creek and restore some life and vigour to that historic town. The National Trust has discussed the concept with people in Pine Creek and I sent copies of the statement to those people. I believe that the proposal has been met with considerable approval.

920 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

A survey has been carried out to test the public reaction to smoking on buses. Is he able to inform the House if the results of the survey have been conclusive?

ANSWER

The fact that I gave up smoking in February really has nothing to do with this survey. We have conducted a small survey which is not conclusive at this stage. We talked to 860 people which is more than they talk to in a political survey to decide the fate of a government. 420 people were in favour of a smoking ban, 410 were opposed to a ban and 30 people do not know or do not care or suggest segregation. We are still examining the matter and we will look at further figures later.

921 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer to the information bays that are to be erected on the Stuart Highway north and south of Alice Springs. Can the minister inform me of the progress on those bays?

ANSWER

I cannot provide the information off the top of my head. We discussed the bays in the middle of June at the Rural Roads Conference in Alice Springs. I was of the opinion that they would have been completed by now. I understood that we were talking to the Regional Tourist Promotion Association to obtain their views on the matter. I will check progress and inform the honourable member later.

922 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Why was a decision made not to further consider a future zoo or sanctuary at Fogg Dam?

ANSWER

The decision was taken not to proceed further with a zoo or sanctuary at Fogg Dam because it was felt that it would detract from the character of Fogg Dam. It is believed that that area is presently putting up with a great deal of traffic from visitors. To formalise a zoo there would possibly endanger the unique character of Fogg Dam as far as southern visitors are concerned. For that reason, it was decided not to proceed with the proposal. However, I notice that some fencing is going on in that area.

923 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

He may be aware that prior to the cyclone an allotment of land on Trower Road was available to any persons who were interested in building a

private hospital. Can he inform the Assembly whether his department has received inquiries from persons interested in building a private hospital in Darwin?

ANSWER

I do not know that the department has received such an application although that is not to say that one has not been received. The block of land referred to was available prior to the cyclone and unfortunately was not taken up by proponents at the time. Because of the withdrawal of interest by certain parties in commencing a private hospital at that time, the land was used for other purposes. I can assure this House that any party which proposes a private hospital construction in Darwin or elsewhere in the Northern Territory will receive very sympathetic consideration by this government on the availability of land for such a purpose.

924 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER:

This question refers to question 292 asked on 27 February. At that time, I asked him if he was aware that there was a booklet being handed to people when they went to register a firearm which was wildly out of date. It was printed in 1972 and does not include presently protected species. Will he arrange for the reprinting of that booklet to include an up-to-date list of protected species within the Territory.

ANSWER

The answer is no because I have in front of me a second-reading speech that I hope to make when introducing a new Firearms Bill next week. Although I investigated this matter at the time the honourable member for Nightcliff raised it in February, it was decided not to reprint the booklet until the passage of the new act. After the new act has been passed, the booklet can be reprinted and the honourable member's wishes acceded to.

925 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise what action he proposes taking and when he proposes to take such action on the Health Department report into the offensive smells associated with cooking operations at the Alice Springs abattoirs?

ANSWER

I have received a paper today and I would be quite happy to let the honourable member know of the conclusions rather than read the whole report on the operation at the Alice Springs abattoirs. The department made an inspection from the point of view of public health and not relating to any other operation of the abattoirs.

All in all, the operation of the abattoirs in Alice Springs is carried out in a creditable manner. The old perennial problems appear to have been overcome effectively. One problem remains: the cooking smells experienced in Alice Springs in certain weather conditions. Abattoirs are a noxious trade and need to be properly sited in relationship to residential areas. Our founding fathers who built the abattoirs obviously did not have much foresight as to how the town of Alice Springs would develop. Alice Springs is a rapidly growing town and is rapidly approaching the abattoirs. In fact, it has not only approached it but it has gone past it.

The cause of the nuisance is a by-product of the meat-meal operation in which aromatic water vapour is discharged into the atmosphere. This normally disperses without nuisance especially in conditions of reasonable air movement. In conditions of thermal inversion and relatively still air, common at night and early morning in the Alice Springs winter, the aroma-laden water vapour is trapped and accumulates beneath the cold air above. Natural shift of this collection of smelly air then moves the offending gas over the town - hence the nuisance.

The abattoirs people, in cooperation with requests by the Department of Industrial Development and the Health Department, fitted a scrubber to the stack which reduces the aroma to a very limited degree by dissolving some of the odour. An electrostatic precipitator would be useless in this particular operation because of the absence of micro-particulate matter. That leaves 2 solutions to the problem which have to be considered: first, to re-locate the abattoirs well away from the town area and, secondly, to raise the stack heights so that the offensive discharge that goes through the stack can be punched through the inversion layer and disperse above it. We are looking at just how high such a stack would have to be. The department has reported here that a consultant needs to be engaged to decide upon the height of the stack.

This cannot be discounted as a folly because stacks of this nature are built in many places throughout Australia with the express purpose of punching noxious odours into the atmosphere and away from residential areas. Finance would be a major consideration; it could well be that the cost of building the stack is much greater than the cost of shifting the abattoirs. When I have further information, I will report to the House.

926 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

To what extent does the government process lease applications for those people whose property was acquired in the 32 square mile acquisition area?

ANSWER

The stage we have reached in the area of land activity that the Leader of the Opposition mentioned is to seek from the Valuer-General for the Northern Territory the values of all the properties concerned so that we can arrange for lease-back arrangements to those persons who have already had this matter discussed with them. We hope to have a far more secure form of tenure in the not too distant future when other legislation is passed in this House. I understand that the Valuer-General has valued most of the properties concerned. There was a delay for a period of time since public announcement was made on this scheme as a result of a court case. The Valuer-General did not want to determine the value of a property as at 1 July 1978 for the Northern Territory if it was not consistent with the courts ruling on the value of the same property some several years earlier when it was originally acquired by the Commonwealth. However, these matters have been settled now and I am expecting a report from the department recommending a series of valuations to be put to persons who may or may not seek to take up the offers.

927 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Does the Fisheries Division have any plans to extend the fishing reserve to Doctors Gully and when is this likely to happen?

ANSWER

The Fisheries Division has received a number of complaints from Carl Atkinson at Doctors Gully concerning the activities of amateur fishermen. The division responded immediately to this presence by installing a large sign detailing the area of the reserve in a location where it is clearly visible to people visiting the gully and by increasing their patrolling activity in the area at high tide. The most effective way to counter the activities of unscrupulous amateurs is to extend the reserve to include part of the inter-tidal zone at the base of the cliffs bordering Larrakeyah Terrace. The division has approached the Department of Lands and Housing to provide a technical description of such an extended area and, when this description is available, papers will be prepared for Executive Council consideration.

928 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the approximate cost of the water conservation program commonly known as the "Turn It Off" campaign? And for how much longer is it proposed to pursue this campaign through the media?

ANSWER

I am not too sure of the actual cost of the campaign but I have some figures here on what it has actually saved us in water. In the peak week in 1978 inside the campaign time, we used 134 million gallons and in the peak week in 1979 during the campaign, we used 120 million gallons. I do not think that the campaign probably satisfied all the requirements of the government. It was designed to save funds in the capital works area, particularly the laying of pipes. It has had a reasonable effect on some water conservation but I noted with horror that some of the government buildings have water running down the street so they could not have been watching television.

929 Mr OLIVER to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the Chief Minister able to inform me of the locality of the motel site purchased by the government in Alice Springs and the amount of the purchase price?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the purchase price but I understand that an application has been made to purchase a motel site in the Gap area in Alice Springs.

930 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I refer to the tobacco allowance for prisoners. If a prisoner is a non-smoker, so that the vice of smoking is not forced on him by the circumstances of his incarceration, can he receive a sweets allowance in lieu?

ANSWER

In answer to the honourable member's question, prisoners are allowed a weekly ration of about 11 grams of tobacco a week which is approximately 3 ounces. There is no allowance for persons who do not smoke to receive sweets or cookies. The department is aware of the anomaly and there is an investigation being carried out now. In the light of that investigation, a recommendation will be made to me as to whether we

should supply sweets to prisoners. The department has taken into consideration that prisoners have money of their own and do receive some kind of income whilst they are in prison. We are making provision for the canteen to be stocked with some 300 or 350 types of articles: soap, lollies, shaving gear, biscuits, writing paper etc. Until such time as the report is handed down, I am unable to give the honourable member any further information. The Minister for Transport and Works has carried out a survey on smoking in buses. Perhaps we should carry out another survey about eating on buses.

931 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Have inquiries been made to his department by any organisations or persons other than Mr Pellerman with a view to establishing a private hospital at the existing Darwin Hospital?

ANSWER

The short answer is no. I am not aware of any other party having expressed an interest in a private hospital in Darwin, in the existing Darwin Hospital or any other place. I would not be averse to receiving a proposal for another party besides Mr Pellerman.

932 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is it his intention to introduce legislation or put a proposal before Executive Council to amend the regulations to allow trusted prisoners temporary release at such times as Christmas and, if so, will this legislation be introduced in time for that to occur this coming Christmas?

ANSWER

The answer is no. I have not had the opportunity of even discussing this particular proposal with officers of my department but I will take the point up for the honourable member and advise her at a later date.

933 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When can we expect an upgrading of the Howard Springs turn-off?

ANSWER

The Howard Springs turnoff is not on the current program. The department is looking at the future requirements for the upgrading of the intersection and no firm dates are envisaged at this stage.

960 Mr ISAACS to the TREASURER

Can he inform the Assembly who is paying for the repairs on the gas turbine at Stokes Hill?

ANSWER

I cannot inform him who is paying for the repairs on the gas turbine but I will endeavour to seek the information and pass it on during these sittings.

961 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

This concerns the results of the state election held in South Australia last Saturday? In view of those results, does the Chief Minister envisage any acceleration of the sealing of the Stuart Highway between the SA - NT border and Pimber in South Australia?

ANSWER

The results of the South Australian election have returned a Liberal government. The then Leader of the Opposition, Dr Tonkin, indicated some time ago that, if the Liberal Party were elected to office in South Australia, it would endeavour to secure the sealing of the south road to the Northern Territory border within 5 years. I think that we can look forward to some progress in that area and I certainly hope to speak to Dr Tonkin in relation to this matter and other matters next week.

962 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

In last Saturday's NT News, there was an article headed "New South Wales probe on Northern Territory Health Department". Was this inquiry commissioned by the minister and, if so, for what purpose and what are its terms of reference?

ANSWER

There is no inquiry into the Northern Territory Department of Health. I would like to get that message over quite emphatically to the honourable member. The Northern Territory government has sought from the New South Wales Health Commission the advice of 1 of its senior officers on the relationship of private hospitals to state medical services and the practicality of a private entrepreneur operating within a state hospital infrastructure. I did note the article and it is important that I emphasise that there is no reflection on the Department of Health whatsoever in this matter. There is no intention to hold a health inquiry as such. It is purely an opinion that has been sought by the government relating to private health services. As honourable members would be aware, we do not have any private hospitals and we do not have the knowledge of the modus operandi of the 2 services together. In New South Wales, the private hospitals and the Health Department have been working together for over 50 years and we are looking for some information on the relationship of their activities.

963 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he confirm or deny reports on the ABC news this morning that staff cuts are being made at the Darwin Hospital and that sections of the

hospital are being closed down through lack of funds?

ANSWER

I heard the report on the ABC news this morning and I was not quite sure whether they were talking about the same Darwin as the one in the Northern Territory or even the same Darwin hospital. In fact, the situation is not as it was purported to be on the news broadcast. I would like to take the opportunity of putting the facts before honourable members.

In 1978-79 the salaries and wages vote in the Darwin Hospital was $13.3m. In 1979-80, the salaries and wages vote in the Darwin Hospital is $15.5m, an increase of $2.2m. There is a further adjustment of upwards of $1.5m to be made to the salaries and wages vote when the Casuarina Hospital is commissioned. This increase recognises extra activities that have been conducted by the department such as the psychiatric and rehabilitation units which are to come into operation in this 12 months and also the indexation and other costs that are likely to be incurred by the department during the period. There is absolutely no movement at all against expenditure on the hospitals or on staff and salary votes.

I would like to clear up a couple of other points. The first relates to the level of staffing in the hospitals. Under the Commonwealth system, we had an operation whereby 2 part-time personnel counted on the hospital's establishment as 1 person. For instance, if we had 2 sisters working 4 hours a day they were not shown as 2 people on the establishment but as 1. Under the Northern Territory rules of the public service, these positions are shown as 1. We have taken the matter up with the Public Service Commissioner. He has acknowledged the anomaly and the department and the Public Service Commissioner's office are working at the moment to overcome this administerative problem. There is no inference at all that there will be any lessening of standards within the hospital.

Another point relates to the renewal of limited tenure persons. We have an arrangement in the public service now that we did not have under the Commonwealth whereby persons who are away for periods of leave - maternity leave, study leave or whatever - can now be replaced with limited tenure staff. Where the department has replaced people with limited tenure staff and the limited tenure runs out because the person has come back to work, the department does not renew the limited tenure. I think that is only a fair and reasonable proposition. It is a big improvement on the position 2 years ago where, if a person went on leave, there was no possibility at all of having anybody replace them.

On the news report this morning, a reference was made by the union representative to the closing down of sections of the Darwin Hospital because of inadequate funds. That statement was more of a public mischief than a matter of fact. When I inquired with the department about this particular reference, the only thing that the department can relate to this is that they have consolidated accommodation units within the hospital and, instead of having 2 half-full wings that require cleaning contracts and maintenance, they have put all the people in 1 wing. They have other one on a standby basis to use when required. No sections of the Darwin Hospital have been closed down in the last 6 months since the Northern Territory took over the health function.

964 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I refer to a question which I asked last week. My constituents were not quite happy with the answer so I will re-phrase the question. Will the minister please assure me that funds will be available to improve the edges of Undoolya Road for the safety of cyclists?

ANSWER

I cannot give such an assurance to the honourable member for Alice Springs because it is a local government matter. The local government of Alice Springs will work out its own priorities and determinations for the funding it gets from the Northern Territory government. I would suggest that the honourable member place some pressure on the Alice Springs council.

965 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

During the last sittings, the minister announced the members of the newly established Northern Territory Energy Council. Could he now indicate when the Energy Council will become operative, what will be its function and the frequency of its meetings?

ANSWER

In the August session, I announced the membership of the Northern Territory Energy Council and I indicated that they would be coming together as soon as possible. I am happy to report that the Northern Territory Energy Council had its first meeting on Monday last. There was full representation at the meeting and the day was taken up with briefings by departmental people and persons experienced in the energy field to the members of the council. The function of the council will be to advise the government on issues relating to the energy field within the Northern Territory as they affect the community and as they may affect the government. The government, from time to time, may refer issues to the councils for its advice and consideration. Alternatively, if the council believes that there are issues that should be brought to the government's attention, it has the prerogative to do just that. It is envisaged that the council will sit quarterly during the course of a year and at other times as the need may arise. As a result of last Monday's meeting and the information that was put before the members, they have asked whether they can meet within a month so that they can take up certain matters that were presented to them during the day's briefing. They felt these matters to be of importance and in need of further consideration as soon as possible.

966 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of his earlier answer, will he state that limited tenure employees will continue to be employed at Darwin Hospital during the absence of other employees on leave?

ANSWER

I thought I did say that in my answer. If I did not and the honourable member wants clarification of it, then that is the case. It need not necessarily be the same limited tenure employee because the replacement might be a nurse as against an ambulance driver, a wardsman or whatever. The intent is to continue to use limited tenure employees to fill

gaps where persons are away for extended periods.

967 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Can the tell me if the Gunn Point forestry reserve will be closed down? If so, is a recreation reserve going to be established in the area?

ANSWER

I have no knowledge of any intention on the part of the Parks and Wildlife Commission to close down the Gunn Point forest service. There is no doubt that the forestry reserve at Gunn Point is being maintained simply on a care-and-maintenance basis.

On the information that I have at the present time, I do not believe that the reserve has any great forestry potential but the Parks and Wildlife Commission is looking at preparing a plan of management for the usage of the present forestry reserve as a recreational reserve. I believe that this is still in the embryonic stage. This was mentioned to me in passing by the Director of the Territory Parks and Wildlife or one of his officers. In view of the fact that its proximity to Darwin would lend it to this activity, this would be a very good use for an area that has not shown itself to be of much value for forestry purposes.

968 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why was the Nightcliff-Fannie Bay connector road located so far into the Kulaluk area and away from existing roads in Ludmilla? How much has this increased the cost of the road compared with connecting Totem Road to Nemarluk Drive and Nemarluk Drive to Fannie Bay - the shortest possible route - with provision for a noise barrier to houses affected in Ludmilla? Will locating this road deep into Kulaluk land ruin or decrease the chance of using reclaimed land, for example, the cyclone garbage dump, for ovals in the future?

ANSWER

The question is really a statement of opinion. It is the honourable member's opinion that the road is located deep into Kulaluk and it is my opinion that it is not located deep into Kulaluk. It does not connect with the Nemarluk Drive as the DRC would have liked. However, I believe that it suits most parties involved. If I have not answered the questions adequately, he can place them on notice.

969 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

How big will the proposed subdivisional holdings on the Marrakai Plains be and can the minister assure me that they will be covered by rationalised, sensible, down-to-earth covenants?

ANSWER

The answer to the second part of the question is certainly yes. There is a total of 6 blocks to be released in the Marrakai area shortly. Four of these cover an area somewhere between 1,200 and 1,600 hectares. One will cover an area of 6,000 hectares and one will cover an area of 14,000 hectares. All blocks will be released by auction and will have a

minimal development covenant so that bidders will not be deterred although lessees will be encouraged to fulfil these covenants in order to ensure that the blocks are not purchased on a straight speculative basis and that they are purchased by intending developers. We have taken a completely fresh approach to the preparation of covenants in regard to these leases and we solved many problems that we have experienced in the past where covenants have been placed on agricultural land. Miscellaneous leases have been quite unrealistic and subsequent review some years later has caused them to be totally revamped and most of them have been cut in half.

970 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is it a fact that exemption from compliance with building regulations may be obtained from the Building Board for the payment of a fee of $50?

ANSWER

I do not think I completely understood the question. It seems that the honourable member is suggesting that, for the payment of a fee, you could have any of the requirements of the building manual waived. Clearly, that would not be the case.

971 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

I preface my question by saying that there are many experienced nursing sisters employed part-time at Darwin Hospital. Will the minister confirm that part-time employment will continue to be available at the Darwin Hospital for nursing sisters?

ANSWER

My understanding is that part-time employment for sisters has always been available in all the Northern Territory hospitals. This came about from the days when it was all the department could do to recruit local people to staff its facilities down the track. This goes back quite a few years. In the smaller centres, it meant offering a job to women who were prepared to come in for 2 or 4 or 8 hours a day or to work a night shift. I understand that this practice occurs in the Darwin Hospital to a degree. I know people who do it there and I know people in Alice Springs who do it. I cannot see that there is likely to be any variation in that practice.

972 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware of the dispute involving owner-drivers and Dussin Constructions at Adelaide River? Is he aware that the 5 owner-drivers who run the tip trucks are owed an amount in the vicinity of $23,000 by Dussin Constructions? Can he assure the House that these 5 owner-drivers will be paid?

ANSWER

I am aware of the dispute and the involvement of the owner-drivers. I have had the department look into the contractual arrangements and it is quite clear from our contract that there is no provision for subcontractors to be paid directly. We have written to Dussin and asked him to pay his people. He said that some wrong information had been submitted with

the accounts and that he hoped to resolve the matter fairly soon when other accounts were submitted to him. That is the only information I have to offer. I cannot say that these contractors will be paid by the government. It is the contractor's responsibility and we have asked him to honour his obligations.

973 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he assure me that parking will be provided at the Howard Springs community clinic block so that people do not have to park in the overflow from the hydrant nearby?

ANSWER

The honourable member raised this question with me a week or two ago and I took it up with the department. Parking facilities are to be made available at the health centre. The Department of Construction has already marked out an area that is to be set aside for the parking. I am not sure whether it is to be sealed but it will be an official parking area. I also mention that the member's suggestion on entry and exit to the carparking area has been put to the Department of Transport and Works for their consideration.

974 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is consideration being given to introducing another rating system for electricity charges?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any proposal to change the rating system for electricity charges at the moment. I will seek the information for the honourable member.

975 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will the minister make a statement to the House on the effect of reported staff cutbacks on the program of the Ludmilla special school?

ANSWER

The honourable member no doubt asks this question as a result of a press article appearing in the Saturday NT News written by a gentleman who could be described as having gone to the special school meeting during the week as a parent and then written an article as a journalist. It was a most unfortunate occurrence. With all the sympathy in the world, one would hardly describe a person in that position as an objective journalist. I was rather surprised that the NT News editorial staff would have allowed that to happen. I do not know whether the honourable member wanted a formal statement or an answer to the question. That sort of article undermines the confidence of those parents who have children already at the school. It is most regrettable.

I suppose every school in the Northern Territory has problems but the problems of the Ludmilla special school are the result of its successes and not its failures. It is an outstanding example in Australia of special schools for severely handicapped children. It compares favourably in staffing, programs and in success rates with any school of its type in Australia. The moment the Northern Territory provides services for handicapped children, then many parents of handicapped children who send their children interstate bring their children back to the Northern

Territory where they quite rightly belong. The Ludmilla special school has been so successful that, in a period of 2 years, it has gone from a pupil enrolment of 5 to 25. Its present staffing is 4 full-time professionally trained teachers and 4 teaching aides. That is a staff student ratio of 8:25 yet it is supposed to be deprived of staffing. In addition, there is 1 part-time instructor who had previously been working 4 hours a day and is now working 5 hours. Last term - and this is the only area of concern which I can possibly identify - there was a part-time instructor who was responsible for assisting the children on the buses between the school and home. That person proved to be unsuitable to the principal and his services were terminated. That person has not yet been replaced.

The Regional Director North is having and has been having discussions with the principal and staff at the Ludmilla special school to review its requirements of the Ludmilla Special School in the immediate future. It has now been determined that the school can take on additional pupils and that will lead to even further staff requirements. The director will be visiting the school on Friday with a view to fulfilling those staffing requirements. The problems of the school arise out of its success. It is a fine example of a special school and it is one that the Education Department in the Northern Territory can be proud of.

977 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to the CHIEF MINISTER

When will the plan of management currently being prepared by Professor Ovington for Kakadu National Park be made available for public comment?

ANSWER

I understand that the plan of management is presently being prepared by the ANPWS and should be available within the next few weeks.

977 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

He will be aware that, in New South Wales, there has been a partial reversion to outside assessment of higher school certificate students. In the light of that shift in direction by the New South Wales department, could he indicate to the House if the present system in the Territory will continue or is he considering a change in the assessment of students at matriculation and leaving levels?

ANSWER

The question is a very complex one and could not properly be handled in an answer to a question without notice. Last year, the Northern Territory Division of the Commonwealth Department of Education instructed a group of teachers to form a taskforce to examine the assessment and accreditation of courses in Northern Territory schools. I now have that report and I am very pleased with it. The people who compiled the report could not possibly be accused of being bureaucrats. They were teachers and principals who were looking at their own schools. They recognised the necessity to move towards a degree of external assessment. I see no reason why that report should not be a public document. I would be quite happy to make the report available to any member and would be most grateful for comments.

We have been locked into the South Australian matriculation system for some years. It is really only a vehicle for admission into university.

What we do not have is a certificate of sufficient status at years 11 and 12. A system of accreditation or assessment of students in schools and certificates with sufficient clout should be made available to students who leave school in year 12. This certificate must be recognisable by employers as having the full weight of the government behind it. We have seen a movement in Australia over the last decade and a half whereby a child commences school at the pre-school level and can go right through to year 12, without necessarily completing year 12, and not have 1 solitary piece of paper in their hand to indicate performance at any stage during that course of schooling over 11 or 12 years. This is most unsatisfactory. I am quite certain that the taskforce of the department recognised the unsatisfactory nature of this arrangement and will be taking steps to remedy it.

978 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What are the effects of mining on the environment at Gove?

ANSWER

At the risk of being reprimanded by honourable members for making a ministerial statement instead of answering a question, I advise the House that the honourable member gave me forewarning of this and I have had the department prepare a very succint reply. I should make it clear that any mining operation will affect the environment to some degree. Officers of the department, in conjunction with officers from the Land Conservation Unit, are continuing to ensure that Nabalco takes all practical measures to minimise the extent of unavoidable impact. The company, which is cooperating fully with the department, is achieving very satisfactory results in the rehabilitation of areas where disturbance has taken place and these results are creating world-wide interest. Re-vegetation of the mined areas is following closely behind the mining operations and a maintenance-free cover of trees and grass has been produced which will ultimately lead to the re-establishment of natural forest. In the case of the red mud ponds, despite many who said it could not be done, a vegetation cover has been established over the 30 hectare area of ponds and it is hoped that natural bush land will follow from this initial cover.

979 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will the government be placing topsoil over the old cyclone garbage dump at Kulaluk and plant lawns in order to make the area usable? Is the government content with the miniscule rehabilitation efforts made along the line of the sewerage pipes through Kulaluk which destroyed rain forest drainage patterns and will it do more to aid rehabilitation in this area?

ANSWER

The questions raised by the honourable member would need to be looked at by officers of my own department. Officers of the Department of Transport and Works would certainly be involved in such matters as drainage and sewerage. I intend replying to the honourable members in writing.

Mr STEELE (Transport and Works) (by leave): Mr Speaker, I undertook to answer a series of detailed questions asked of me concerning the John Holland facility and although the government has indicated I would make a statement in the House, I believe that I should still have these

answers recorded in Hansard. I will try to avoid the tedious monologue which was so obnoxious to the honourable member for Arnhem yesterday.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

980 Mr STEELE: Question 868: On 3 August 1978, the Department of Industrial Development commissioned Mr Peter Anderson, head of the Department of Business Studies, Darwin Community College, at a cost of $2,000 to produce a feasibility study on the proposal to establish small ships maintenance and repair facilities in the Port of Darwin. It appears the report was commissioned as a result of John Holland's continuing interest in the feasibility study. Airfares, accommodation, hire-cars, typing, commissioning of survey and printing costs amounted to about $1,400. Mr Anderson estimates he made $1 an hour after tax on the project. The Department of Industrial Development received Mr Anderson's report on 6 September 1978.

981 Mr STEELE: Question 870: John Holland Constructions Pty Ltd received 2 copies of the report in the week prior to 21 September to assist the company in determining whether it would proceed with negotiations.

982 Mr STEELE: Question 873: Other companies were provided with copies and details have already been given.

983 Mr STEELE: Question 876: I am informed that lease holders and licensees in Frances Bay were consulted by Mr Anderson during the course of his study.

984 Mr STEELE: Question 878: I rever to my answer to question 873 and the Chief Minister's remarks of yesterday. After the earlier advertising in June 1978 by the Port Authority and the distribution to public companies, it was not considered necessary to further advertise.

985 Mr STEELE: Question 883: The charges to be levied by John Holland have yet to be determined. Due to the difference in facilities, it would be very hard to realistically compare the.

986 Mr STEELE: Question 890: A variety of estimates have been made. The most recent suggests about $80,000.

987 Mr STEELE: Question 892: A formal proposal was made to the Department of Industrial Development by John Holland Constructions on 14 December 1978. The company proposed to finance, design, construct and operate a small ships repair facility at Frances Bay provided the government would work together to construct a public sheltered harbour and small shios wharf adjacent to the repair facility.

988 Mr STEELE: Question 895: At the meeting on 22 January attended by officers of the Department of Industrial Development, the Treasury and the Port Authority, reservations were expressed about the legality of the lease-back proposal and of the viability of the proposal. Concern was expressed about the government seeking to compel vessels to use the John Holland facility. As a result, Mr Rettie sought further advice from the Port Authority and the Department of Law. The Port Authority on 13 February provided advice on a number of cost and revenue estimates associated with the public facility. The Department of Law tendered advice to the Department of Industrial Development on 21 February

concerning the draft heads of agreement. At a later meeting held on 21 February and attended by members of the Department of Industrial Development, Transport and Works, Treasury and Law the heads of agreement was discussed in detail. A new draft reflecting the comments was prepared and delivered to John Holland on 22 February.

989 Mr STEELE: Question 898: In general, to call open tenders for public works valued in excess of $10,000, certificates of inexpediency are issued following approval by the Treasurer or his delegate. When there is only one logical supplier for maintenance contracts following provision of capital requiring specialised knowledge - for works on Aboriginal communities which they are competent enough to perform themselves for the provision of equipment which is compatible with already purchased equipment, where time is the essence and it can be demonstrated that it is inexpedient to call public tenders for security and alarm systems and for major projects involving desing-and-construct operations - public tender may be used. However, price is still the most relevant consideration. Contracts may be negotiated with the delegated approval of the minister. This often applies to the leasing of building space for government occupancy. The John Holland contract at Frances Bay is an example of the last category. However, it does have elements which would result in the issue of a certificate of inexpediency. Time was important if the facility was to operate by the coming wet season. The public facility and private facility were integral parts of the one project. There were considerable time and cost savings for having both facilities built by the same organisation.

990 Mr STEELE: Question 105: The Department of Transport and Works costed John Holland's tender and considered it to be fair value for money. It now appears that John Holland will make a loss on this contract due to the increased dredging costs.

AUDITOR'S-GENERAL REPORT

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister): Mr Speaker, I move that this Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of the Legislative Assembly Powers and Privileges Ordinance 1977, authorises the publication of the Report of the Auditor-General and that the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister): Mr Speaker, I move that the report be noted and seek leave to continue my remarks at a later hour.

Leave granted.

Mr PERRON (Treasurer): Mr Speaker, I lay on the table the Annual Report of the Housing Commission for the period 1 July 1975 to 30 June 1976.

991 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What action is the minister taking to ensure that children needing to cross the flow of traffic from the Ludmilla - Fannie Bay connector road on their way to school will be able to do so in safety?

ANSWER

This matter has been drawn to my attention. Obviously, we would not wish to impose a new thoroughfare on a community without making sure that there was some means of either crossing the roads or providing a bus service to service those streets that are populated, particularly in the Coconut Grove area. The department is currently studying the specifications and also analysing the bus routes to see if there are some variations that need to be considered. In due course, we will have that information and we will be able to advise those citizens in that region.

992 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Some time ago, a person was commissioned to report on the control or eradication of coffee bush in the Darwin area. Was such a report asked for and, if so, what were the findings of that report?

ANSWER

A study of the feasibility of eradicating coffee bush in the Darwin area was carried out internally within the department of the Chief Minister in April 1979. The study showed that total eradication would be a very extensive operation which would need to extend over 3 to 5 years and could result in erosion hazards in certain areas unless carefully controlled. Subsequently, some doubt has been expressed as to the cost and feasibility of eradication particularly in areas such as the Myilly Point cliff. An approach based on individual area needs and feasibility of control is being examined.

993 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I am sure he is aware that the Queensland government is taking action to stop the illegal catching and selling of undersized jenny crabs in that state. Having regard to their concern, is he yet convinced that some control on the taking of jenny crabs is necessary in Northern Territory waters?

ANSWER

I do not think it is a matter of convincing me of the nature of the problem. The Fisheries Division is currently going through all the aspects of fisheries that need to be catered for by government. As a demonstration of this, we will be introducing legislation today to rewrite the whole Fisheries Act. In addition to that, we have put out the barramundi review report which is a subject on the notice paper. There are other reports available on mackerel and reef fisheries because we view any of these matters with great concern. We are concerned to ensure the viability of commercial fisheries as they become established. Obviously, in due course the barramundi fishery will need alternatives. The question of jenny crabs will no doubt be arrived at in due course.

994 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

What title is used by qualified male nursing staff in our Northern Territory medical service?

ANSWER

I understand that there has been a colloquial expression used to address male nurses as "Mr Sister" which is understandably not appreciated by the profession at all. My advice from the department is that the male nursing fraternity would prefer to be addressed as Mr.

995 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

According to the administrative arrangements order of 2 July, the minister is responsible for museums, art galleries, arts and cultural affairs, libraries, archives and related legislation. Can the minister explain why the oral history project is not being undertaken by his department but is in fact being undertaken by the Chief Minister's Department.

Mr DONDAS: I ask that the question be redirected to the Chief Minister.

Mr EVERINGHAM: If I am correct, the gist of the question was why the oral history project is being undertaken within the Chief Minister's Department and not in the Department of Community Development. The staff organising the oral history committee are based within the Department of the Chief Minister which has the Office of Information within it and has the facilities readily available to undertake the project.

996 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it a fact that the Upper Adelaide River Experimental Station is unalienated crown land and subject to an Aboriginal land claim?

ANSWER

It is a fact that the Upper Adelaide River Experimental Station is unalienated crown land and I believe it is a fact also that a land claim has been lodged over that area. The government will have to consider the implications of this land claim in respect of the continued operations of the Upper Adelaide River Experimental Station. The government has a committee which examines the implications of land claims in so far as they affect the operations of government or the interests of the Northern Territory generally. And as far as I know, the land claim is under examination by the committee at the present time.

997 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Are negotiations taking place between the Northern Territory government and Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services Ltd, formerly the Commonwealth Hostels, with a view to the Northern Territory government taking over their Northern Territory operations? If so, what stage have those negotiations reached?

ANSWER

I cannot provide an answer on what stage the negotiations have reached. The Northern Territory government is having transferred to it the assets and properties formerly known throughout the Territory as Commonwealth Hostels. When I was last familiar with this subject, we were negotiating with Commonwealth Catering Services to ensure that they continued, at least for the duration of the contract that they had with the Commonwealth, to administer the premises on behalf of the Northern Territory government. Assuming that that can be arranged between the Northern Territory government and that organisation between now and the period that such contract would run out, the Northern Territory government can re-assess its entire position in relation to these hostels which we have inherited to decide what course of action we should take following that period.

998 Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can the minister advise what steps are being taken by his department to provide additional land in Alice Springs for residential purposes.

ANSWER

At the present time, Alice Springs is reasonably catered for as far as residential land is concerned when compared to some other areas in the Territory. However, the continuing studies into areas which will be turned off for subdivision does not stop in any centre and, whilst we do not have at the present time a government subdivision program in Alice Springs, we do have at least one private developer who is interested in a parcel of land and is doing a feasibility study for purposes of private development of a private subdivision in Alice Springs. We are very keen to see this. The area being looked at has a much greater potential for urban settlement than the area that the private subdividers are considering. There is therefore a possibility of a joint private enterprise and government role in subdividing.

As far as Alice Springs is concerned, we do not see any immediate problems with the supply of land. The Northern Territory government's over-the-counter land sales system has commenced in Alice Springs because of the availability of land and that scheme has been an enormous success with some 90 odd blocks being sold within a few days of commencement. That means that there are at least 90 people in Alice Springs who are satisfied as far as land is concerned and now have the task of building houses on those blocks.

999 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it correct that the Health Department will only establish clinics in rural towns and missions?

ANSWER

I do not think that is quite correct. The Health Department has confined its operations to towns and major settlements. For some reason, not known to myself and for which the Department cannot explain, they have never bothered to provide medical services in terms of infrastructure and accompanying facilities to pastoral areas within the Northern Territory which have large Aboriginal populations.

There is a prototype experiment taking place now on a station in the southern half of the Territory which has a large Aboriginal population living on it. The Health Department is putting in some basic infrastructure and working in tandem with the station management who, over the years, has provided the service themselves to the Aboriginals. There is no definitive policy that says the Health Department is not to be involved in this sort of operation and I would hope that, over the years, such an experiment as this in the southern half of the Territory will be extended to the whole of the Territory. It is going to be one of those things of "slowly, slowly catchee monkey".

1000 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the fact that there will be no primary school for the 1980 school year in the district of Malak and that the nearby schools at Anula and Wulagi are at or near full capacity, what arrangements are in hand for the 1980 school year for primary school students now resident in Malak to attend schools?

ANSWER

I will have to get the details required to answer the honourable member's question. I will be more than happy to make sure that that information is conveyed to her. The Malak Primary School proposal is high on the government's list of priorities for early commencement. Design work is currently being undertaken. I am somewhat surprised to learn that the 2 schools she referred to are at full capacity, particularly considering the opening of the Holy Spirit Primary School which significantly relieved the pressure on a number of Northern Suburbs primary schools. I will certainly provide the honourable member with details to her question at a later time.

1001 Mr DOOLAN to the CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to the Chief Minister's answer to question 326 regarding the eradication of hyptis at Obiri Rock. He said: "Weedicides have not been used at this stage because they are considered to be ineffective according to the advice that we have". Who gave this advice to the Chief Minister? Does the Chief Minister have confidence in his own Primary Industry Division and is he aware that officers from that division are certain that some weedicides, for example, 24D, are effective against hyptis.

ANSWER

At this stage, I cannot even recall providing the answer to the honourable member for Victoria River in respect of the weed eradication at Obiri Rock. I would say that, if I secured an answer, it would have come from the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission because Obiri Rock is in the area of the Kakadu National Park. If the honourable member would like to put his question on notice, I will secure answers for him. Since he asked me, I will be asking the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission. If he choses to ask the Minister for Industrial Development, no doubt he will ask the Primary Industry Division.

1002 Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he advise what steps have been taken in respect of reported incidents of misuse of explosives and other improper practices in connection with

the reconstruction of Stuart Highway south of Adelaide River?

ANSWER

I believe there were allegations made some weeks ago about the improper use of explosives by the contractors operating on the stretch of road near Adelaide River. Investigations by the explosives inspectors within the Department of Mines and Energy failed to turn up any evidence that would be needed to launch a prosecution. However, there is a general tightening up of the control and use of explosives right throughout the Northern Territory. We passed legislation amending the Explosives Act and subsequent regulations to those amendments have been drawn up and should be ready shortly to help the inspectors in their efforts to oversee and maintain surveillance on the use of explosives in the Northern Territory. They will work with the cooperation of the supervisory personnel from other departments, such as the department of Transport and Works, who often come across people using explosives.

In the Northern Territory, about 5% of total explosives used are on things like drain digging, road construction, dam building etc. The 95% is used mainly in mining activities around Tennant Creek, Groote and Nhulunbuy. The department pointed out that they have had more inspectorial duties on the 5% of material that is used for explosives in civil works away from mining operations than they have had in the whole of the mining operation. That probably comes about by virtue of the fact that turnover of road construction employees is a little bit higher than in the mining industry where explosive's men are generally more settled in their employment.

1003 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

On Thursday 13 September, I asked him if the technical working party formed to examine and develop legislation to control the ingredients of stock feeds, including antibiotics, had reported to the minister and, if not, when would it be expected that they would. Can he yet advise me whether they have reported and, if not, when will they?

ANSWER

I have not neglected to reply to that question. I posted a letter to the honourable member yesterday advising her that I had replied in a certain context on 22 May that the working party was due to report by the end of the year. The position has not changed since then.

1004 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Since new legislation was introduced to regulate illegal sand and gravel mining in the rural area, what is being done to police this act after 4.21pm and at weekends and public holidays?

ANSWER

Illegal sand mining in the Howard Springs area has been of continuing interest to me since I became minister. One of the first things the Department of Mines and Energy had to do was set up a surveillance system that would enable them not only to know what was going on in the place during working hours, which is extremely difficult in the spread of activities there, but to be aware of after hours improper practice. The

department is instigating a system of surveillance that will enable us to keep an eye on nocturnal and weekend activities of certain operators. We are not prepared to accept a proposition like that and we will be moving to see that it does not continue.

1005 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will he advise me when I might expect a response to my urgent representations of 21 August this year regarding the changes to Agricultural Lease No 683 in the Alice Springs region?

ANSWER

I cannot give a definitive answer to that question at the moment. I am not quite sure of the matters pertaining to that particular lease. However, I will undertake to have a look into it forthwith and get a response back to him.

1006 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I am very grateful to the honourable minister for the assistance he has already given with the problem of the Ross Park drain but there is yet more to be done. Can the minister please advise me whether there are plans to continue the Ross Park drain into the major east-side drain?

ANSWER

I am not too sure of the question or the locality. If the honourable gentleman would either put the question on notice or drop me a note about it, I will try and procure the information he requires.

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PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

Questions are printed in numerical order
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FROM 28 NOVEMBER 1978

201 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is causing the delay in the signing of the lease agreement between V.B. Perkins & Company and the Northern Territory Port Authority, a matter which has now been in dispute for exactly 6 years?

FROM 15 MAY 1979

474 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is it a fact that shortage of serviced land in Katherine is preventing the provision of sufficient housing for the 20-odd people on the Housing Commission list?

2. Does the NT government have plans for providing Katherine with a satellite development area as it has for Darwin?

3. Will 5 and 10 acre blocks be available in the Katherine area in 1979?

FROM 11 SEPTEMBER 1979

858 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is it true that the Department of Education has no adequate and proper facilities for the Aboriginal Vocational Training Program in Alice Springs?

2. Has the Department of Education agreed to the purchase of a fully equipped workshop facility in Priest Street, Alice Springs and, if so, what purchase price has been agreed?

3. When did the Department of Education first consider the purchase of this facility?

4. If the Department of Education intends to purchase this facility, when will the contract be completed?

859 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Is the minister aware of the anguish and confusion among some Central Australian Aboriginal communities over the rules and regulations governing burials, which are being administered by his department?

2. Would the minister explain why he has been unable to give a full reply, as promised, to the points raised in my telegram of 9 August 1979?

3. Will the minister provide a clear statement on the way in which the rules and regulations governing burials in isolated areas will be administered?

4. Will the minister give an absolute assurance that the traditional and ceremonial rites of Aboriginal communities will be respected, and that officers of his department will handle such matters with discretion?

5. Will the minister give an assurance that officers of his department will not seek information from relatives of the deceased Aboriginal which will add to their anguish and threaten their cultural practices?

860 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is the minister aware of a letter, dated 14 August 1979, over the signature of Dr Lyn Walker, Head of the Department of Education Studies of the Darwin Community College, which has been sent to all external students enrolled with the Darwin Community College?

2. Does the minister share Dr Walker's concern that the Community College's commitment to external studies is under threat?

3. Is it true that the Darwin Community College, principal and staff, regard the position of a co-ordinator of external studies to be absolutely essential for the proper maintenance of the college's external studies program and, if so, does the minister share this opinion?

4. Can the minister give an assurance that cost-paring exercises will not erode the academic integrity of the Darwin Community College or affect its external study program?

865 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

By what provisions of which Act are premises situated at lot 1769 Town of Darwin being used as offices?

FROM 18 SEPTEMBER 1979

867 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Who paid for repairs on the new section of road near Pine Creek, which was completed by McMahon Constructions only last year but has been closed to traffic for many months this year because of its extremely poor construction?

934 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How does the Katherine development projection by Pak Poy fit in with the present desperate situation for residential, industrial and commercial land sites?

2. Has the industrial subdivision and the residential subdivision of Katherine East been deferred because of lack of funds?

3. What are the contributing factors of the desperate land shortage in Katherine?

935 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has the Chief Minister satisifed himself that the federally funded associations in Katherine - Yulungu Association Inc. and Baruwei Enterprises Pty Ltd - are not competing unfairly with private enterprise?

2. If these associations fill a community need, will he fund other associations and unions such as the Cattlemens Union of Australia (Katherine Branch) and the Northern Farmers and Pastoralists Association to fill a similar community need?

937 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. In view of the importance of the live cattle export trade to the NT cattle industry, will holding facilities be established at the wharf and will unloading facilities be improved?

2. What were the circumstances which resulted in the "Orient Clipper" incurring $60,000 (or approximately $40 per head for each of the 1,400 head of cattle loaded) in stevedoring charges in June 1979?

939 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Are courses being devised for rural dwellers a responsibility of the KREC or a college of practical education, or an intrusion by the DCC?

940 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What steps are being taken to satisfy the demand for land in Katherine and to give this centre "over the counter" land sales?

941 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In view of the expressed opinion of the Chief Minister of the value of tourism to the NT does the government intend to lower the tax on toilet facilities which are not used to capacity for months on end during the off season for tourists?

944 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How many streets in Katherine are not up to the subdivisional standard contained in the offer of local government?

945 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Has a moratorium been placed on aerial baiting with 1080?

2. If so, is there justification for this action?

947 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the road to Springvale homestead be sealed?

948 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the Teachers Federation a policy on teachers' dress, hair and beard styles?

949 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In view of the need for small rural holdings around Katherine, will the government negotiate with local landholders such as Manbulloo station to provide such living areas?

950 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the estimated annual cost of plumbing repairs in Katherine due to mineralisation of the water supply?

951 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. When will a virologist be appointed to the new laboratory at Berrimah?

2. Is botulism killing cattle in the Mountain Valley-Moroak-Mataranka area?

952 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is it true that the Darwin Community College has 130 teaching staff and 3,455 equivalent full-time students?

2. Is it true that the Community College of Central Australia has 16 teaching staff and 985 equivalent full-time students?

3. Is it true that at the Darwin Community College the student/staff ratio is 27 to 1 and at the Community College of Central Australia it is 62 to 1?

4. Is it true that the CommunityCollege of Central Australia staff and council, and the Alice Springs community, had been led to believe by the minister that the change of status of the Alice Springs Community College from an annexe of the Darwin Community College to a Technical and Further Education College within the Education Department would mean that the college would receive greater funds and improve its facilities and resources?

5. Did the Council of the Community College of Central Australia seek a budget allocation of $1,435,000 for this financial year?

6. Does the allocation of only $900,000 by the government to the Community College of Central Australia indicate that post-school education in the centre can be properly served by a lesser amount than the College Council sought?

7. Does the minister recognise that the buget allocation is totally inadequate to maintain proper services to the Central Australian community?

8. Does the budget allocation of $900,000 indicate that the minister has no faith in the analysis of the needs of post-school education in the centre by the College Council?

9. If the answer to 8 is yes, does this lack of confidence in the College Council indicate that the minister will seek to change the composition of the Council; and, if so, will the College Council be replaced by departmental staff answerable to the minister?

10. If the answer to question 8 is no, will the minister ensure that the budget allocation to the Community College of Central Australia is immediately increased to the sum requested by the Council; that is, $1,435,000?

953 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Will the minister table the lot numbers and location of the houses involved in the Special Aboriginal Housing Scheme in Alice Springs?

2. How much money was received by the NT government from the Federal government in the last financial year for the scheme?

3. How many new houses will be built?

4. How many old houses will be converted?

5. When did the building and conversion program begin?

6. When will the program end?

7. When will tenants start to move in?

8. When the scheme was first proposed were any of the houses to be built or converted opposite or next to privately-owned houses?

9. If so, how many?

10. Will any houses now being built or converted be opposite or next to privately-owned houses?

11. If so, how many?

12. Did the minister receive a letter from the Central Land Council on 17 July, over the signature of Mr Ross Howie, asking for an early reply regarding several questions on the scheme?

13. Has the minister replied?

14. If so, when did he reply?

15. If not, why?

954 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Is the minister aware of the case of Emily Jako Nambajimba, who was sentended to 2 years gaol in 1977 with a non-parole period of 4 months?

2. Is the minister aware that this woman was not granted parole even though the judge, Mr Justice Muirhead, asked the Parole Board to find suitable accommodation for Ms Jako as "she is, in fact, no criminal but a young woman, an epileptic, suffering a most serious personality disorder"?

3. What steps were taken to find the suitable accommodation recommended by the judge?

4. Does the minister agree that there is an urgent need for a half-way home facility in Alice Springs to take care of people like Emily Jako Nambajimba?

5. Is the minister aware that there are several other people in urgent need of such a facility?

6. Will the minister take action to ensure such a facility is provided?

7. What does the minister suggest should be done for Ms Jako to ensure she receives a "meaningful program for her care" as Mr Justice Muirhead suggested?

956 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

(a) Who are the members of the Oral History Committee?

(b) What are their qualifications?

(c) What are the terms of reference of the committee?

(d) Where is it intended that the material collected be stored?

(e) Is it intended that this material be available for use (e.g. in publications) and, if so, is the donor's permission obtained?

(f) Do interviewers receive any training?

(g) In selecting interviewees, what efforts are made to minimise biases in the collection towards certain periods or events, districts or racial groups?

957 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How and when will the new director of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission be selected?

2. What qualifications will be required for the position?

3. What will the salary be?

4. Can the minister give an assurance that the government will make every endeavour and advertise internationally to get the best possible person for the job?

5. Who will be on the selection panel for the position?

958 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Does he agree that there is an urgent need for an Aboriginal vocational training facility at the Community College of Central Australia?

2. Did the minister inspect a facility in Priest Street, Alice Springs, called "Sportorama" and agree that this would meet the needs of an Aboriginal vocational training facility?

3. Was the building valued and, if so, how much was it valued at?

4. Did the minister agree that the property should be acquired for Aboriginal vocational training purposes and that acquisition should be made in this financial year?

5. Is there an allocation in the Budget for acquiring this facility and, if not, why?

6. Will the minister ask Cabinet to ensure that the premises are acquired this financial year?

FROM 11 OCTOBER 1979

959 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Does the Education Department provide special assistance for gifted children? If so, what, in detail, are the programs currently in operation, and have additional funds been allocated for them in the 1979-80 financial year?

1008 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What was the breakdown of expenditure of the Office of Information for the year 1978-79?

1009 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Which organisations received subsidies for social workers employed in community work in 1978-79?

2. Which organisations will receive the subsidy in 1979-80?

1010 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Which community organisations received Grants-in-Aid in 1978-79?

2. How much did each organisation receive?

3. Which community organisations applied for Grants-in-Aid for 1979-80?

4. Which organisations will receive Grants-in-Aid in 1979-80?

5. How much will each organisation receive?

1011 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Which church organisations received the loans now administered by the Community Welfare Division?

2. What are the terms of those loans?

1012 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and OWRKS

1. Why was the Nightcliff-Fannie Bay connector road located so far into the Kulaluk area and away from existing roads at Ludmilla?

2. How much has this increased the cost of the road compared to connecting Totem Road to Nemarluk Drive and Nemarluk Drive to Fannie Bay by the shortest possible route, with provision for a noise barrier to houses affected in Ludmilla?

3. Does locating the road deep into Kulaluk land ruin or decrease the chance of using reclaimed land there (i.e. cyclone garbage dump) for ovals in the future?

1013 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Will the government be placing topsoil over the old cyclone garbage dump at Kulaluk and planting lawns in order to make the area useable?

2. Is the government content with the minuscule rehabilitation efforts made along the line of the sewerage pipes through Kulaluk which destroyed rain forest drainage patterns; and will it do more to aid rehabilitation in this area?

3. Will the government survey the damage done to the natural drainage and tidal flows of the Kulaluk area by sewerage works and the resulting death and changes to native vegetation there, with a view to deciding proper rehabilitative action?

4. Will the government urgently assist in the clean-up of old refuse dumps and mining in the Kulaluk area now while the area has been burned off with a view to creating fire protection lines to protect the remnant rain forest habitat of this area?

1014 Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

In answer to Question No. 326 regarding eradication of hyptis at Obiri Rock, the Chief Minister said:

"Weedicides have not been used at this stage because they are considered to be ineffective according to the advice we have."

1. Who gave this advice to the Chief Minister?

2. Does the Chief Minister have confidence in his own Department of Primary Production?

3. Is he aware that officers of the NT Department of Primary Production are certain that some weedicides (e.g. 2 4 D) are effective against hyptis?

1015 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What are the minister's intentions in regard to the early integration of handicapped children into the school system?

1016 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he ascertain from the Federal Minister for Transport the cause of an incident at Tindal airport on Tuesday 2 October 1979 involving a TAA Friendship aircraft, a Lear Jet and a light aircraft from Darwin and obtain from the minister, for the information of the Assembly, details of any action he is taking to prevent such incidents occurring in the future?

1017 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the need for and the practicability of establishing a barramundi hatchery in the Territory been investigated and, if so, with what results?

1018 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

To whom and for what kinds of licences should persons wishing to establish crocodile farms in the Territory apply?

1019 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the electrical wiring of houses at Duck Creek be completed to enable proper use to be made of the generators and power lines already supplied?

1020 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Who was responsible for the organisation of the design/construct competition for the museum and art gallery?

1021 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Who chose the judging panel for the museum and art gallery competition, and who were its members?

1022 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Were all panel members present during the oral presentations by the competing firms in the museum and art gallery competition and, if not, who

were the substitutes for panel members and for what parts of the presentations were they present?

1023 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(a) Which panel members and/or substitutes were present when the decision was made to allow John Holland Construction Pty Ltd to revise its design for the museum and art gallery after the initial assessment?

(b) When was that decision made?

1024 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Were any other of the competing firms, apart from John Holland Construction Pty Ltd, given the opportunity to revise their designs for the musuem and art gallery after the initial assessment and, if not, why not?

1025 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did the original John Holland Construction Pty Ltd design for the museum and art gallery vary from the brief in that it did not include a theatrette?

1026 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did the original John Holland Construction Pty Ltd design for the museum and art gallery provide less area than required by the brief?

1027 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Was the original John Holland Construction Pty Ltd scheme for the museum and art gallery closer to the beach than all other submissions despite instructions in the design brief that the foreshore should not be disturbed?

1028 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will siting of the museum and art gallery close to the foreshore result in considerable amount of fill being required?

1029 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(a) Did any departmental officers provide advice to the museum and art gallery competition judging panel and, if so, who were they, and on what matters did they advise the panel?

(b) If the answer to (a) is yes, why was this necessary in view of the fact that a leading Australian architect, Mr Bryce Mortlock, was available to provide expert advice to the panel?

1030 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did Mr Bryce Mortlock advise the museum and art gallery competition judging panel that the initial John Holland Construction Pty Ltd design was superior to all others?

1031 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did Mr Bryce Mortlock recommend that John Holland Construction Pty Ltd be invited to revise its initial submission on the design of the museum and art gallery?

1032 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did Mr Bryce Mortlock recommend that other candidates be invited to revise their submissions on the design of the museum and art gallery?

1033 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is Mr Bryce Mortlock's written advice to the museum and art gallery competition judging panel available to be seen by me or other members of the Legislative Assembly?

1034 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did Mr Bryce Mortlock examine the revised submission of John Holland Construction Pty Ltd to the museum and art gallery competition judging panel?

1035 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When was the final decision made by the museum and art gallery competition judging panel to accept the revised John Holland Construction Pty Ltd design?

1036 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Which museum and art gallery competition judging panel members and/or substitutes were present when the final decision was made to accept the revised John Holland Construction Pty Ltd design?

391 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to the NT Place Names Committee and ask the following:

1. What is the current membership of this committee?

2. How many members of this committee were actually born in the Territory?

3. How many members of this committee are of Aboriginal descent?

4. Have persons of Aboriginal descent ever been appointed to this committee?

5. How many members of this committee reside in Darwin?

6. How many members of this committee reside in Alice Springs?

7. How many members of this committee reside in other Territory centres?

8. What is the normal term of appointment to the committee?

9. What are the duties and responsibilities of the committee?

ANSWER

1. Eight - (Mr E.C. Evans, Mrs C.M. Oxford, Mr J.R. Bridgland, Mrs P.M. Davies, Mr A.E. Chittock, Mr J.C. Marriott, Mr P.G. Spillett, Mr P.J. Wells).

2. One.

3. None.

4. Believed nil.

5. Five.

6. One.

7. Two.

8. The Act does not specify a term of appointment.

9. The duties and responsibilities of the committee as set out in the Act are to make reports to the minister containing recommendations in relation to the naming of or the altering of the name of a public place. The committee is required to forward to the minister with each such report any communication, and particulars of any representations received by it in relation to the naming or the altering of a name of a public place to which the report relates.

794 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has he investigated the means of making more land, presently flood prone, available for housing in Katherine, or is the answer to this problem one for the Minister for Transport and Works as stated in your answer to question No. 534?

ANSWER

Yes. The government has been examining a number of alternative proposals to increase land availability in Katherine and private subdivision near

Katherine is expected in the near future.

The government is reviewing policy not to release flood prone land and this may result in further housing blocks becoming available.

861 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is the minister aware of a letter, dated 30 July 1979, which was sent to the Director of Education, Dr J. Eedle, by the Acting Director of the Institute for Aboriginal Development concerning the future educational role of the institute?

2. Is the minister aware that the Acting Director of the Institute for Aboriginal Development has not received to date a reply from Dr Eedle?

3. Can the minister categorically squash the rumour that the Department of Education intends to take over the work of the institute?

ANSWER

1. Yes, I am aware of the letter because along with Mr Perkins and 3 others I received a carbon copy of the letter written.

2. Yes, I am aware of the delay in both my reply and the secretary's reply and can only apologise for the delay.

3. Yes, I can categorically deny this rumour. There has been close co-operation between the department and the institute, as indicated in the letter. The institute is a private agency and obtains its funding from a variety of sources. There is no way that the Department of Education could "take over" institute activities, even if it wished to do so, which it does not, as the department has no influence over its funding arrangements.

862 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What was the original completion date and cost of completing the new Stuart Highway section at Barrow Creek?

2. What is the present scheduled completion date and cost?

3. Have there been any delays and, if so, what was the cause or causes of the delays?

4. Who was employed as the contractor to complete this project?

ANSWER

1. Original completion date: 29 June 1979.
   Original project value: $1,727,570.

2. Current estimated completion date: 23 October 1979.
   Estimated project completion value: $1,752,270.

3. Yes. The general reasons for the delays are as follows:

   8 weeks 4 days - unseasonal wet weather.

   5 weeks 2 days - alteration of pipe to be used from spiro-lock metal to reinforced concrete; late confirmation and delivery delays involved.

   1 week 5 days - sheeting of detours (increased scope of work).

1 week - additional excavation to find suitable rock in bridge foundations.

4. Baulderstone-Crawford Joint Venture.

863 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Will the proposed recreation lake for Alice Springs go ahead and, if so, where will it be sited?

2. Have Aboriginal leaders and organisations been consulted about the proposed recreation lake and its likely impact on traditional Aboriginal sites of significance?

3. Have environmental studies been carried out on the site for the proposed recreation lake?

4. If the proposed recreation lake is to go ahead, when will work commence?

5. How much will the proposed recreation lake cost?

6. If the recreation lake project is not to proceed, what are the reasons?

7. Will the minister supply to me all reports relating to the lake project including environmental studies, site tests and any comments from Aboriginal and other community leaders?

ANSWER

1. A recreation lake is planned for Alice Springs and 4 sites have been closely considered.

   - Todd River - upstream from the Old Telegraph Station;
   - Jay Creek (2 locations); and
   - Birthday Gap on the Hugh River.

   No final decision has been made at this time but the Todd River site is preferred for the following reasons:

   - proximity to town;
   - good access;
   - adjacent to existing attraction and reserve; and
   - could provide a supplementary water source for Alice Springs in an emergency.

2. Discussions on 2 sacred sites in the area of the Todd River site are being held with the Central Land Council.

3. The investigations so far have included hydrology, geology and soil conservation. When a firm decision is made on the engineering suitability of the site, environmental considerations will be examined.

4. If the tests are satisfactory and a design can be commissioned by the end of this year, work could commence in the second half of 1980.

5. It is not possible to give firm costs at this point but an order of cost of approximately $2 million is envisaged.

6. There has been no decision that the recreation lake project will not proceed.

7. A report on the engineering geology of the Todd River site is being prepared and other reports will follow on completion of investigations. Normal environmental requirements will be satisfied in due course. A formal reply has not yet been received from the Central Land Council.

864 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer to Circular No. 79/145, with reference No. 78/2021, which was sent to all Territory schools over the signature of the Deputy Secretary of the Programs Division, dated 3 August 1979 and headed "Northern Territory Department of Education", which instructed school principals to advise their part-time instructors of the uncertainty of their positions, and ask -

1. Is this the circular which the minister described as "unofficial" or the result of a "misunderstanding" between Darwin and other Territory centres when he announced publicly that funds for part-time instructors would not be cut?

2. Could the minister explain his definition of an "unofficial" circular from officers of his department?

3. Will he state what is the precise situation regarding the future of part-time instructors in schools throughout the Territory?

ANSWER

Circular No. 79/145, with reference No. 78/2021, was sent to all Territory schools explaining that a reassessment of part-time instructors allocations would be carried out at the end of August. This is a normal exercise, carried out each year when funds available for part-time instructors are known.

As there are never unlimited funds available for the employment of part-time instructors, each school is advised of its basic allocation for a financial year, and principals are expected to ensure that part-time instructors services are distributed reasonably evenly throughout the year. My department is aware of at least one urban school in Alice Springs where, if the current rate of expenditure continues, the school will have used it 1979-80 entitlement by the end of the 1979 school year. It was felt that the circular was quite clear in its intentions.

1. The "unofficial circular" was not a circular as such but a letter written to various part-time instructors in Alice Springs and was promulgated by a departmental officer in that area. It would seem that the person concerned misinterpreted the departmental Circular No. 79/145.

2. "Unofficial" was the term applied to the issue of the above-mentioned letter, without clearance by a senior officer who would have picked up the misinterpretation of facts.

3. I can assure you that my department has no intention of reducing the services provided by part-time instructors. It is, however, reviewing its administrative procedures in this area with a view to making the most effective use of part-time instructor resources.

866 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

For each of the following centres -

Darwin; Alice Springs; Nhulunbuy; Katherine; and Tennant Creek -

(a) on what dates were the last 3 contracts let for the construction of detached houses by the Housing Commission?

(b) What was the contract price per detached house in each of the last 3 contracts?

ANSWER

DARWIN	1. Contract 304	5.9.79	-	Price $30,684 per house.
	2. Contract 719B	23.4.79	-	Price $33,495 per house.
	3. Contract 719A	20.4.79	-	Price $33,495 per house.
ALICE SPRINGS	1. Contract 607	1.6.79	-	Price $21,060 per house.
	2. Contract 606	2.4.79	-	Price $20,962 per house.
	3. Contract 605	30.3.79	-	Price $27,435 per house.
NHULUNBUY	1. Contract 676	1.6.79	-	Price $42,500 per house.
	2. Contract 265	20.6.78	-	Price $43,753 per house, (elevated houses).
			-	Price $40,687 per house, (public housing).
KATHERINE	1. Contract 503	1.6.79	-	Price $35,090 per house.
	2. Contract 501	2.3.79	-	Price $32,920 per house.
	3. Contract 266	22.5.78	-	Price $32,656 per house.
TENNANT CREEK	1. Contract 553	4.7.79	-	Price $28,765 per house.
	2. Contract 551	25.5.79	-	Price $38,680 per house.
	3. Contract 232	2.3.77	-	Price $29,000 per house.

936 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will sulphuric acid be available to turn phosphate dust and phosphate rock into cheap fertilizer?

ANSWER

The following information has been supplied by the Minister for Industrial Development:

"The question appears to be linked to a recent media announcement about the arrival of a consignment of sulphuric acid in Darwin. This importation was made by Queensland Mines through a facility constructed on land leased from the Port Authority and is for the exclusive use of the company in its processing or uranium ore.".

938 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is being done to replace existing medical services aircraft with aircraft capable of being operated economically from airstrips in the Territory by pilots other than commercial airline pilots?

ANSWER

We are looking at the possibility of replacing Nomad aircraft by a smaller number of faster pressurised aircraft which will enable a more economical use of our total resources. The question of pilots has, however, not been looked at.

942 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the Katherine Corporation be allowed to make by-laws ultra vires as a measure to speed up effective local government?

ANSWER

No.

943 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will private telephones be available in Katherine Hospital for patients requiring them, such as a businessman confined to hospital with a broken leg?

ANSWER

I have asked the Department of Health to examine the practicality of the rental of private telephones by hospital patients, but provision has already been made for patients' telephones at Casuarina Hospital.

946 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the estimated completion date for the new water supply for Katherine from the Donkey Camp intake?

ANSWER

July 1981.

955 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Who is responsible for the metal sheds being constructed at the Aboriginal camp at Uluru?

2. How many sheds will be built?

3. How much are the sheds costing?

4. How many Aboriginal people live at Uluru?

5. What facilities are to be provided in the sheds?

6. What advice was sought from the Aboriginal community and from experts on Aboriginal housing before work on the sheds was started?

7. Does the minister consider that the sheds are appropriate housing for the Aboriginal people at Uluru?

8. What plans for Aboriginal housing are contained within the proposed Yulara Village?

ANSWER

1. Aboriginal housing at Uluru (Ayers Rock-Mount Olga) National Park is the responsibility of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. This government, through the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission, has continued to express its concern at the appalling housing conditions for Aboriginal people camping at Ayers Rock and its disappointment that after nearly 2 years, as far as we have been advised, the ANPWS still only propose to build one house at the park. The Aboriginal people living at the park have traditional affiliations with the area and are, for the most part, elderly people.

   In view of this, when the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission was recently requested by Aboriginal people at Ayers Rock to provide prefabricated all weather shelter similar to that being erected at the Hermannsburg outstation, the TPWC purchased these units and assisted the Aboriginals to erect them at their current camping area at Ayers Rock.

2. The TPWC have purchased 2 units and have requested the Central Land Council to advise as to whether it is their understanding that the Aboriginal people want further units and whether the supply of these has the support of Central Land Council. If the answer to both is in the affirmative, the TPWC intend to provide between 5 to 6 additional units. These may not all be of the Hermannsburg type and current proposals are also taking into consideration a housing system designed by the Commonwealth Department of Construction which embody the same principles.

3. The 2 units already purchased have cost $2,331.80 each, delivered on site. It is again stressed that the responsibility for Aboriginal housing on this park rests with the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service and that the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission has taken this action to provide some protection for these elderly Aboriginal people.

4. To our knowledge, at Friday 28 September, there were 20 Aboriginal people camping at Ayers Rock. This number varies considerably as they are traditionally oriented people and numbers fluctuate considerably with people coming and going on "business" and visiting relatives.

5. No facilities are provided in the sheds. They are a simple lock-up weatherproof shed, with windows and an external verandah for outdoor living. They are designed solely for all weather protection and have a heavy duty fibro floor to allow cooking fires to be lit inside if required. If the ANPWS is unable to provide basic services such as water and toilet facilities to the remaining Aboriginal people camping at Ayers Rock, over and above the one house that they propose to build, then the TPWC will probably have to assist once more.

6. The sheds were provided in response to the request from Aboriginal people at Ayers Rock. They are designed and built by Aboriginal people at Hermannsburg to suit their housing requirements at the outstations and can be readily transported and re-erected in keeping with their desire to follow a traditional lifestyle. The Commonwealth Department of Construction proposals which are also being evaluated, embody these principles of mobility and in addition, incorporate insulated building materials and a greater flexibility in that they can be added to and expanded to incorporate normal facilities in response to the occupants' needs.

7. No one considers the sheds to be appropriate housing for the Aboriginal people at Uluru. They are regarded only as temporary weatherproof shelter, although they may also serve some transitional function in a progression to more sophisticated accommodation. Moreover, it is not intended to impose western values on a people who may prefer a more traditional lifestyle.

8. The development plan for the Yulara Village provides for serviced land for the eventual construction of motels, campgrounds and housing lots which will be made available for lease by interested departments, organisations and individuals. Provision has also been made for possible development requirements of Aboriginal groups should they desire areas separate from the planned village development. Actual development of facilities for Aboriginal people will be incorporated in the next stage of development of the Yulara Village, tentatively programmed for 1980-81 and further discussions will be held with the Aboriginal groups on their requirements as a prelude to planning.

   (This information was also provided in response to a question from Mr Perkins - 11 September 1979 - on the provision of suitable housing for Aboriginal people in the Yulara Village area).

1037 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it true that confiscated fishing gear has been given by the Fisheries Division and the Department of Industrial Development to Aboriginal communities?

ANSWER

No items of confiscated gear or equipment have been donated to Aboriginal communities for commercial fishing ventures. In some instances, confiscated gill nets have been used in training courses for Aboriginals but, in all of these cases, the gill nets were not marked or tended when seized for being illegally set. No subsequent claims of ownership for any of these nets were lodged with the Fisheries Division. All fishing nets that are in a good condition at the completion of Aboriginal training courses are returned to Darwin. Nets which are damaged beyond economical repair are not returned. It is not current division policy to sell gear back to the offenders. Under government disposal procedure, such gear must be either auctioned or sold by tender. At the moment, we are not disposing of such gear because our powers to do so are imprecise. However, the new Fisheries Bill which was introduced in the last sittings will clear up this problem.

1038 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware of the activities of the Yipirinya School at Alice Springs? If so, what help does the Education Department propose to give to the school? Is it a fact that the Education Department has actually prohibited the mention of this school on the Aboriginal program on radio 8HA? If so, I would like to know why?

ANSWER

The question has about 4 barrells to it and deals with quite a complex matter. I ask the honourable member to put it on notice.

1039 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

I asked the minister some time ago whether the Northern Territory Electricity Commission would be requested to carry out urgent maintenance on overhead wires. Recently, there was another accident in Kahlin. Has he asked for the maintenance to be carried out and, if so, is he able to report on NTEC's progress in that maintenance program?

ANSWER

I recall that the honourable member raised the particular issue of high voltage maintenance in the Darwin area. At the time, I gave an indication to the honourable member of the works that were being done. I took the issue up with the Northern Territory Electricity Commission which advised me that they will be proceedings to have all the rehabilitation and maintenance work in the Darwin area brought to a conclusion as soon as possible. Maintenance is not something that will commence this year and finish next year; it will continue for ever and ever. I guess that the people living in the suburbs of Darwin who are suffering from intermittent blackouts as a result of maintenance operations are well aware that maintenance is a continuing operation.

I have not been able to get details of the accident at Kahlin. I am not aware of whether the accident was caused by poor maintenance on the part of the commission but I will endeavour to get and provide that information for the honourable member as soon as possible.

1040 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

During the August sittings and on 12 September, I asked the Minister when the members of the Education Advisory Council would be appointed. On 12 September he replied that the Executive Council papers were being prepared at the time and that, hopefully at the next Executive Council meeting, his Honour and the Executive Council would consider the matter.

In view of the previous answer to this same question, has executive council met and considered this matter? Can he indicate when these advisory councils will be appointed?

ANSWER

The appropriate documentation is now prepared and, although I gave an undertaking to the honourable member that I would endeavour to get it before his Honour at the next meeting of the Executive Council, difficulty has arisen as to the membership of 1 member. It is for that reason that a re-think had to take place. Nevertheless, the documents are finalised and his Honour the Administrator and the Executive Council should be considering them at the next meeting.

1041 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Which private people went on the recent trade mission and what was the government's responsibility for their inclusion?

ANSWER

The private people who went on the recent mission to Singapore were Mr Peter Rau from Tristar, Mr Ron Hersey who is a farmer from Katherine, Mr Roger Rooney of V.B. Perkins and Company, Mr John Hickman, Mr Nick Paspalis and Mr Graham Varden. The government had no responsibility for the welfare of these people or to provide fares or financial assistance. However, they are entitled to some reimbursement from the Crown as a result of their expedition to Singapore. Our assistance came in the form of assisting them with appointments with senior officials and generally offering advice wherever possible.

1042 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the minister aware that some part-time nursing sisters at Darwin Hospital have been told, upon taking holidays, that they will be unable to obtain part-time employment on their return? Will the minister investigate this in view of his earlier assurance to the Assembly that part-time employment would continue to be made avialable for these sisters?

ANSWER

I will most certainly investigate the matter. If the honourable member would like to quietly give me the names of the people that are involved, it would make that process of investigation much simpler.

1043 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise what steps he has taken to ensure that Northern Territory residents will receive a direct TV coverage of this year's Melbourne Cup?

ANSWER

Recent reports indicated that the Northern Territory would not receive a direct television coverage of the Melbourne Cup because the Victoria Racing Club had sold exclusive television rights to the 0-10 network which does not service the Northern Territory. In any event, the only commercial television channel in the Territory is in Darwin. Coupled with the problems of television coverage of the cricket and the fact that the Territory missed out on a direct telecast of the VFL grand final, this prompted me to send a letter and a telex to the Chairman of the Victorian Racing Club asking him whether it would be possible, in view of the fact that the 0-10 network did not operate in the Territory, for the VRC to allow the ABC to televise the Melbourne Cup in the Territory. I must thank the Chairman of the Victoria Racing Club for the promptness of his action. Within 2 days he had indicated that the 0-10 network and the Victoria Racing Club had absolutely no objections, that facilities would be made available to the ABC and that it was up to them from there on in.

At the same time, I sent a telex to the Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Commission asking him whether he would be agreeable to the ABC in the Territory televising the cup. I have not as yet heard anything from him. In the meantime, I have communicated with him again and told him that the VRC is agreeable. At the present time, it is in the hands of the Australian Broadcasting Commission. I really hope that they won't sulk about televising the Melbourne Cup in the Territory the way they seem to be sulking over providing cricket coverage simply because a commercial interest has the rights elsewhere. The Australian Broadcasting Commission has a very serious responsibility to Territorians because it is the only media network that covers the whole of the Territory and we depend on it to a much greater extent than people elsewhere. I believe that its senior management and the commission itself must have regard to the special requirements of the Northern Territory and be prepared to do things here that they may not necessarily have to do in the states which are well provided with commercial TV coverage.

1044 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

In the light of previous answers he has given to my queries regarding Connair and continuing press speculation as to its future, can he give the House any indication of the likely ownership of Connair in the future?

ANSWER

I cannot indicate the expected future ownership of Connair. Most of the press speculation in relation to the future of Connair is generated by the management of Connair itself. Naturally, it wants to try to create as big a market as possible for the sale of the company and I suppose commercially one cannot blame it for that. At present, the Northern Territory government has indicated to any corporation or group that has approached it that the purchase of Connair will not necessarily mean that that person or corporation will be given any rights in the Northern Territory other than those presently held by Connair itself. In other

words, a ticket buying Connair will not be a ticket to become the Northern Territory's regional airline. At present, we are in receipt of submissions of one sort or another from East-West Airlines, Trans Australia Airlines and Ansett Airlines. We are waiting for detailed submissions from the 2 major domestic operators and I think, in fairness, that East-West Airlines should be permitted to re-submit if it so desires.

The Northern Territory government is not particularly interested in what they have done in the past but what they are likely to do in the future. We are interested to know things such as anticipated levels of fare, expected frequencies, types of aircraft and the proposed methods by which the airlines would suggest that fares and reight rates be increased rather than the glamorous side of the airline industry. I understand from Mr Connellan that other comapnies may be interested. We have had a telex from him recently indicating that an overseas company is prepared to buy Connair subject to his earlier sale of Connair to TAA or any other company. We will certainly look at all these propositions in some detail but it may be a month before they are received in Darwin.

In the meantime, Connair is quite capable of operating and will continue to receive the federal government subsidy until September of next year. There is no reason for haste; it is not a matter which we should rush into. I have given the staff of Connair - and I think some staff members generate the interests of the honourable member for Nightcliff in this matter - assurances that their interests will be protected. I believe that everyone who has indicated an interest in Connair to date has also indicated that there would be no staff retrenchments. I really cannot do more than that. I think the government is doing more for Connair staff in that way than the management of Connair has done for its staff over the last several years. Every time it looked like having a subsidy fight with the government, it told the staff that they would all be retrenched or words to that effect and has used them as political muscle in its bid for subsidy. I again report that the government will do everything humanly possible to protect the interests of Connair staff and that everyone in the aviation industry understands this. I do not think I can serve any good purpose by repeated that assurance any more.

1045 Mr BALLANTYNE to CHIEF MINISTER

Because of the

Because of the killing of a Victorian man by a crocodile at the Rainbow Cliff area off Gove last weekend, what steps have been taken by the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission to have the crocodiles in that area of the Gove Peninsula taken away from those recreational areas?

ANSWER

I was saddened to hear of the tragic and bizarre circumstances of the death of the young skindiver at Rainbow Cliff near Nhulunbuy last weekend. I immeidately asked the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission to carry out a survey of the number of crocodiles in the area. I believe that the Parks and Wildlife Commission has already established a task force to carry out this job. Attempts will be made to trap and move to another location any crocodiles which are located close to popular swimming or diving areas. Obviously, this will be a difficult taks.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

1046 Mr EVERINGHAM: I have a telex from the Chairman of the ABC which is relevant to an earlier question: "Reference your telex message sent 4 October. Having regard to current commission policy, I cannot give you an assurance that the ABC will carry a live telecast to Northern Territory of Melbourne Cup if VRC agrees to your requests". He had not received my second telex by then. "Film of the race is expected to be included in early evening ABC television news bulletins of Tuesday November 6 in all states and in Northern Territory". It looks as though I will have to go back to the crease.

1047 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is the minister aware that a company called Diorama Pty Ltd is building a diorama of Aboriginal folklore and a souvenir shop on lot 4571 in the town of Alice Springs? Can he confirm whether planning approval was given for this development?

ANSWER

I do not know the dates and times of the approvals for a diorama which is being built in Alice Springs. I have no personal knowledge on the subject. However, I will seek the information and pass it on to the honourable member.

1048 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it proposed to amend the breathalyser legislation to remove the power of police to require all vehicle passengers in road accidents to submit to blood tests?

ANSWER

I have noted newspaper reports of alleged proposed amendments to the breathalyser legislation in the last couple of days. Although there was a file on my desk when I returned to the Northern Territory yesterday afternoon containing certain suggestions regarding a number of aspects of the legislation, that file certainly did not emanate from the police. As yet, no submission in respect of amendments to the breathalyser legislation has gone to Cabinet where it would certainly have to be considered before amendments were agreed to.

The honourable member for Stuart asked whether an amendment is proposed to remove the provision whereby occupants rather than passengers - and I make that distinction deliberately - can be requested to submit to a blood test following a motor accident. It is a matter for a court to determine who was the driver of a motor vehicle that was involved in an accident as a result of which prosecution or civil proceedings might flow; it is not a decision to be taken by the police or by a doctor. How is a doctor to decide who is the driver when persons are brought to him at the hospital? Although I certainly would not expect that the procedure would be a general one, it is for this reason that the provision is in the bill. This provision is contained in legislation in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales and, legally, I can see a very good reason for it. I am not sure who is proposing any amendments to the legislation at this stage. We will certainly look at any proposal for amendments but I want to bring it to the attention of members so that they will be aware of the specific reason for the inclusion of that clause in the bill.

1049 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has the Dorisvale barytes mine been purchased by Utah company?

ANSWER

I understand that there has been a takeover by Utah of the Australian company that is currently operating in the Dorisvale barytes mine. I am not aware that that transaction has been concluded but I think that, before the Dorisvale barytes mine was included in such a purchase, there should be talks with the Northern Territory government becasue we have invested on roads and improvements in the area to enable that project to get off the ground. If there was some benevolent organisation like Utah around the ridges, we would be willing to talk to thme about the inclusion of the particular mine in such a transaction.

1050 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise whether the Health Department has done any investigation that will encourage it to proceed with fluoridation of the Katherine water supply?

ANSWER

The short answer is yes. I would just like to bring honourable members up to date with some of the work that has been done by the Health Department in this particular area. As you are aware, Mr Speaker, about 6 months ago there was a lot of opposition voiced in Katherine to the proposal that fluoride be introduced to the water there as a means of trying to reduce the prevalence of dental caries in the town. Various groups took exception to the proposal and expressed their opposition. Subsequently, we sent officers from the Health Department to talk to these people and to put the case for fluoride from the health point of view.

After that, I discussed the issue with Dr Gurd and asked him whether the department had made any comparisons between children that were born and bred in Katherine with those that were born and bred in Tennant Creek because Tennant Creek has natural fluoride in its water. It would have been interesting to obtain a comparison of the prevalence of dental caries in children. I thought that such a survey would be a very simple matter and I left it with the department. The department embarked on an exhaustive investigation of the difference between the children in Tennant Creek and Katherine. The survey is common throughout Australia from the point of view of the dental profession. There is a standard system of making comparissons of this nature. It was conducted in both towns by the dentists and the dental therapists. The criteria that we used was based on the Australia-wide criteria. Just to give you a bit of background on that, there is an index which is used by the dental authorities for this evaluation which is called the DMFDEN baseline index. The DMF index indicates the presence of the dental caries. They add these 2 factors and divide the number by the number of people that are involved and come up with what they call a community baseline figure.

The particular survey involved 176 children from Katherine and 96 children from Tennant Creek. The children involved were between 5 and 12 years of

age, born and bred in the towns and had not been out of the area except on holidays or for brief periods.

The results of the survey for the ages of 5-10 years showed that dental caries were 3 times more prevalent among Katherine children than among Tennant Creek children. In the 11-12 year age groups, Tennant Creek children had less dental caries than Katherine children but the department felt that, because there were only 39 children in that classification, they did not really get a good cross-section of the community and a good figure for a baseline index.

Another interesting result came from a comparison of the baseline indices for both Katherine and Tennant Creek with figures from Tamworth and Canberra where fluoride has been added to the water for more than 10 years. The interesting fact was that the existing baseline figure in Katherine, about 5.16, is comparable to the figures available for Tamworth and Canberra before fluoride was added to the water in those 2 towns. The latest figures for Tennant Creek are comparable to the latest figures for Tamworth and Canberra where fluoride has been added to the water for more than 10 years.

The results of the department's investigation show that there is a good deal of benefit to be gained by the addition of fluoride to the water. There will always be objections to fluoride in the water but, from the point of view of preventing dental caries in children, the evidence supports, without any reservation in my mind, the concept of introducing fluoride to the Katherine water supply.

1051 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can the minister inform me on the development of the Harts Range gem find?

ANSWER

I am not quite sure whether the honourable member is referring to the ruby discovery by Hillrise Investments in that particular area. I advised the House some time ago that a very interesting ruby discovery had been made over a very large strike zone in the particular area. One of the difficulties that confronted the company was marketing the product. The gem must be very pure because there is not much of a market for second-rate rubies.

The company has sent people to Germany and have established that they have a market for their particular product. Recently, they floated an Australian company through the Stock Exchange to further investigate and develop the area.

This discovery lies near the Harts Range, 130 miles out of Alice Springs. I would just like to assure the honourable member that the fossickings of individuals in this particular area will not be interupted by the activities of the company because they are in 2 different locations.

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PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

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QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 20 NOVEMBER 1979

FROM 28 NOVEMBER 1978

201 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is causing the delay in the signing of the lease agreement between V.B. Perkins and Company and the Northern Territory Port Authority, a matter which has now been in dispute for exactly 6 years?

FROM 11 SEPTEMBER 1979

860 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is the minister aware of a letter, dated 14 August 1979, over the signature of Dr Lyn Walker, Head of the Department of Education Studies of the Darwin Community College, which has been sent to all external students enrolled with the Darwin Community College?

2. Does the minister share Dr Walker's concern that the Community College's commitment to external studies is under threat?

3. Is it true that the Darwin Community College, principal and staff, regard the position of a co-ordinator of external studies to be absolutely essential for the proper maintenance of the college's external studies program and, if so, does the minister share this opinion?

4. Can the minister give an assurance that cost-paring exercises will not erode the academic integrity of the Darwin Community College or affect its external study programs?

FROM 18 SEPTEMBER 1979

937 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. In view of the importance of the live cattle export trade to the NT cattle industry, will holding facilities be established at the wharf and will unloading facilities be improved?

2. What were the circumstances which resulted in the "Orient Clipper" incurring $60,000 (or approximately $40 per head for each of the 1,400 head of cattle loaded) in stevedoring charges in June 1979?

941 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In view of the expressed opinion of the Chief Minister of the value of tourism to the NT does the government intend to lower the tax on toilet facilities which are not used to capacity for months on end during the off season for tourists?

948 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the Teachers Federation a policy on teachers' dress, hair and beard styles?

953 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Will the minister table the lot numbers and location of the houses involved in the Special Aboriginal Housing Scheme in Alice Springs?

2. How much money was received by the NT government from the federal government in the last financial year for the scheme?

3. How many new houses will be built?

4. How many old houses will be converted?

5. When did the building and conversion program begin?

6. When will the program end?

7. When will tenants start to move in?

8. When the scheme was first proposed were any of the houses to be built or converted opposite or next to privately-owned houses?

9. If so, how many?

10. Will any houses now being built or converted be opposite or next to privately-owned houses?

11. If so, how many?

12. Did the minister receive a letter from the Central Land Council on 17 July, over the signature of Mr Ross Howie, asking for an early reply regarding several questions on the scheme?

13. Has the minister replied?

14. If so, when did he reply?

15. If not, why?

FROM 11 OCTOBER 1979

959 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Does the Education Department provide special assistance for gifted children? If so, what, in detail, are the programs currently in operation, and have additional funds been allocated for them in the 1979-80 financial year?

1009 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Which organisations received subsidies for social workers employed in community work in 1978-79?

2. Which organisations will receive the subsidy in 1979-80?

1010 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Which community organisations received Grants-in-Aid in 1978-79?

2. How much did each organisation receive?

3. Which community organisations applied for Grants-in-Aid for 1979-80?

4. Which organisations will receive Grants-in-Aid in 1979-80?

5. How much will each organisation receive?

1011 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Which church organisations received the loans now administered by

the Community Welfare Division?

2. What are the terms of those loans?

1013 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Will the government be placing topsoil over the old cyclone garbage dump at Kulaluk and planting lawns in order to make the area useable?

2. Is the government content with the minuscule rehabilitation efforts made along the line of the sewerage pipes through Kulaluk which destroyed rain forest drainage patterns; and will it do more to aid rehabilitation in this area?

3. Will the government survey the damage done to the natural drainage and tidal flows of the Kulaluk area by sewerage works and the resulting death and changes to native vegetation there, with a view to deciding proper rehabilitative action?

4. Will the government urgently assist in the clean-up of old refuse dumps and mining in the Kulaluk area now while the area has been burned off with a view to creating fire protection lines to protect the remnant rain forest habitat of this area?

1019 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the electrical wiring of houses at Duck Creek be completed to enable proper use to be made of the generators and power lines already supplied?

1020 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Who was responsible for the organisation of the design-construct competition for the museum and art gallery?

1021 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Who chose the judging panel for the museum and art gallery competition, and who were its members?

1022 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Where all panel members present during the oral presentations by the competing firms in the museum and art gallery competition and, if not, who were the substitutes for panel members and for what parts of the presentations were they present?

1023 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(a) Which panel members and/or substitutes were present when the decision was made to allow John Holland Construction Pty Ltd to revise its design for the museum and art gallery after the initial assessment?

(b) When was that decision made?

1024 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Were any other of the competing firms, apart from John Holland Cons-

tructions Pty Ltd, given the opportunity to revise their designs for the museum and art gallery after the initial assessment and, if not, why not?

1025 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did the original John Holland Constructions Pty Ltd design for the museum and art gallery vary from the brief in that it did not include a theatrette?

1026 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did the original John Holland Constructions Pty Ltd design for the museum and art gallery provide less area than required by the brief?

1027 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Was the original John Holland Constructions Pty Ltd scheme for the museum and art gallery closer to the beach than all other submissions despite instructions in the design brief that the foreshore should not be disturbed?

1028 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will siting of the museum and art gallery close to the foreshore result in considerable amount of fill being required?

1029 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(a) Did any departmental officers provide advice to the museum and art gallery competition judging panel and, if so, who were they, and on what matters did they advise the panel?

(b) If the answer to (a) is yes, why was this necessary in view of the fact that a leading Australian architect, Mr Bryce Mortlock, was available to provide expert advice to the panel?

1030 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did Mr Bryce Mortlock advise the museum and art gallery competition judging panel that the initial John Holland Constructions Pty Ltd design was superior to all others?

1031 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did Mr Bryce Mortlock recommend that John Holland Constructions Pty Ltd be invited to revise its initial submission on the design of the museum and art gallery?

1032 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did Mr Bryce Mortlock recommend that other candidates be invited to revise their submissions on the design of the museum and art gallery?

1033 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is Mr Bryce Mortlock's written advice to the museum and art gallery competition judging panel available to be seen by me or other members of the Legislative Assembly?

1034 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did Mr Bryce Mortlock examine the revised submission of John Holland Constructions Pty Ltd to the museum and art gallery competition judging panel?

1035 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When was the final decision made by the museum and art gallery competition judging panel to accept the revised John Holland Constructions Pty Ltd design?

1036 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Which museum and art gallery competition judging panel members and/or substitutes were present when the final decision was made to accept the revised John Holland Constructions Pty Ltd design?

FROM 13 NOVEMBER 1979

1052 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is he aware of the activities of the Yipirinya School at Alice Springs and, if not, what help does the Education Department propose to give to the school?

2. Is it a fact that the Education Department has prohibited mention of this school on the Aboriginal program on radio 8HA and, if so, why?

1054 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Have the creditors of the Roper River community store, who were owed $167,000, been paid and under what system does this community now operate its store?

2. Are there debts remaining and, if so, how will they be paid?

3. Are the books of community stores audited?

4. What steps have been taken to prevent a repetition of losses in community stores?

1057 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Was the meeting of cattlemen, held in Katherine on 29 October 1979, called to allow the Bureau of Animal Health to put a case for the eradication of brucellosis and tuberculosis or to allow cattlemen to discuss the 4 options put forward by the cattle industry?

2. Did it achieve either purpose?

1058 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Did the Fisheries Division examine the economics and purpose of the fish farm at Kununurra before recommending against the establishment of barramundi hatcheries in the Territory?

1059 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Will he have swimming pools built at each of the schools in

Katherine to enable children to learn swimming and life saving as part of their education?

2. In considering this proposal will he take into account the opposition which many rate-payers have to the idea of a town swimming pool?

FROM 20 NOVEMBER 1979

1060 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is it a fact that efforts to provide Katherine and district with low cost LP gas supplies are being hindered by an Aboriginal land claim over the site chosen for a gas depot?

1091 Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

(a) What is the current waiting time for Housing Commission homes and flats in Darwin and Alice Springs?

(b) Is any information available concerning the waiting time for Commission houses and flats in the suburbs of Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney and, if so, what is the waiting time for Commission flats and houses in the suburbs of these capitals?

1092 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

(a) What is the annual post-operative infection rate for the past 5 years for the Alice Springs hospital?

(b) Are comparative figures available over the same period for the major hospitals in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney and, if so, what are they?

1117 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that on the inaugural journey of the Darwin-New Guinea shipping route, a number of NT buffaloes were found to have TB? If so, what was the origin of the buffaloes and what steps have been taken to assure our trading partners, especially New Guinea, that this will not recur?

1118 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Did the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation grant special quotas to North Australian meatworks in 1979, as the Australian Meat Board had done, to overcome geographical difficulties?

2. What quotas in tonnes were granted to each meatworks, including William Angliss?

1119 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will cattle holding facilities be established at the Darwin wharf and cattle loading facilities improved?

Will general unloading facilities be improved?

1120 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Did the Chief Veterinary Officer, Mr D. Newton Tabrett, tell the

cattle industry meeting at Katherine recently that if Australian beef was banned from the US it would be because of brucellosis and not tuberculosis?

2. If this is a fact, will all cattle slaughtered in the Northern Territory have blood samples taken in an endeavour to locate areas where the disease is prevalent?

3. Does he agree with the Canberra based Bureau of Animal Health that brucellosis will be eradicated in the Territory by 1984?

1121 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Are government departmental caravans parked on residential blocks in Katherine to avoid keeping them in caravan parks or because of the shortage of serviced land?

1122 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the tax on toilet facilities in Katherine continue through the tourist off season?

1139 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Bearing in mind that the price of vegetables in Alice Springs is sometimes double that in Adelaide, and that the so-called Alice Springs "farm area" is plagued by salt problems, will the minister advise what steps will be taken to provide a more suitable alternative area for the production of farm produce in the Centre?

1140 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the Territory Development Corporation's "Detailed Investigation into Tourist Needs Throughout the NT" been completed; and, if not, when will it be completed?

2. When will the corporation's report be produced and will the report be made public?

3. What areas have been surveyed?

4. Has the corporation sought the views of Aboriginal groups and organisations and, if not, will the minister ensure that it does?

1141 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Will he supply a copy of the instructions given to the police for the arrest and treatment of persons "for protective custody", including the measures taken to ensure that those arrested are aware of their rights?

2. What measures are taken to ensure that the police do not misuse their powers of arrest under "protective custody"?

474 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is it a fact that shortage of serviced land in Katherine is preventing the provision of sufficient housing for the 20-odd people on the Housing Commission list?

2. Does the NT government have plans for providing Katherine with a satellite development area as it has for Darwin?

3. Will 5 and 10 acre blocks be available in the Katherine area in 1979?

ANSWER

1. The Housing Commission was allocated 12 low density and 3 medium density sites in Katherine in June 1979. I am informed that the Housing Commission will build on all these sites this financial year. All other vacant allotments have been sold privately. The Department of Lands and Housing is identifying possibilities within the existing town area for release as soon as possible. Given the limitations of this approach, any shortfall will be borne partly by the Housing Commission.

2. A strategy plan and a new town plan of Katherine are currently being prepared. These are still in the formulative phase and it is too early to forecast in which direction future development will occur. This will depend on the problems caused by flooding in the area, and costs of servicing alternative locations. This task is proceeding as a matter of priority in view of the urgency of the matter.

3. The Department of Lands and Housing is currently considering applications from the lessees of several agricultural leases, in the Katherine area, to sub-divide their leases into smaller miscellaneous leases. Arising from these applications, rural living lots could become available over the next 6 months.

858 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is is true that the Department of Education has no adequate and proper facilities for the Aboriginal Vocational Training Program in Alice Springs?

2. Has the Department of Education agreed to the purchase of a fully equipped workshop facility in Priest Street, Alice Springs and, if so, what purchase price has been agreed?

3. When did the Department of Education first consider the purchase of this facility?

4. If the Department of Education intends to purchase this facility, when will the contract be completed?

ANSWER

See answer to Question No. 958.

859 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Is the minister aware of the anguish and confusion among some Central Australian Aboriginal communities over the rules and regulations governing burials, which are being administered by his department?

2. Would the minister explain why he has been unable to give a full reply, as promised, to the points raised in my telegram of 9 August 1979?

3. Will the minister provide a clear statement on the way in which the rules and regulations governing burials in isolated areas will be administered?

4. Will the minister give an absolute assurance that the traditional and ceremonial rites of Aboriginal communities will be respected, and that officers of his department will handle such matters with discretion?

5. Will the minister give an assurance that officers of his department will not seek information from relatives of the deceased Aboriginal which will add to their anguish and threaten their cultural practices?

ANSWER

1. I am not aware that there is anguish and confusion amongst some Central Australian Aboriginal communities over the arrangements for burials. Certain representations have been made to me by the honourable member and by the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress about administrative arrangements to accord with the prescriptions of the amended Cemeteries Act.

2. On receipt of the telegram from the honourable member on 9 August, I investigated his representations and issued a public statement on the matter.

3. The second reading speech by the former Minister for Community Development to the Legislative Assembly on 28 February 1979 indicated the general arrangements for areas outside public cemetery areas. The government's interest is in ensuring that there are no unnecessary encroachments on land, that there are no health difficulties and that, in respect of urban or fringe urban areas, suitable identification of burial sites is available.

4. Within the limits of the conditions mentioned in part 3 to the question, officers of the department have and will continue to handle the matter with sensitivity and discretion. It is a fact that despite some inordinate delays in bringing to the attention of officers of the Department of Community Development, the request for approval, adequate arrangements have been made to enable burials to proceed. There is no case on record in the Central Australian area where an approval for a burial has been refused.

5. Officers of the department are aware of the need for sensitive handling of these matters. There has been no complaint from individuals or communities registered of anguish or concern about conflict arising between provisions of the Cemeteries Act and traditional cultural practices.

865 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

By what provisions of which Act are premises situated at lot 1769 Town of Darwin being used as offices?

ANSWER

The premises situated at lot 1769 Town of Darwin are being used as offices without any formal approval or permit under any act, ordinance or regulation.

There are, however, several problems being experienced by property owners whose properties are located in the area bound by Mitchell Street, Daly Street, the Esplanade and Knuckey Street, which is generally zoned B5 (Tourist Business). Lot 1769 is one of the properties which is zoned B5 in an area which is considered to have a unique amenity, being adjacent to an extensive park, having magnificient views towards the sea and located in close proximity to the central business district.

This area has been zoned B5 under the Darwin Town Plan 1978 which permits such uses as motels, hotels, restaurants, guest houses and hostels as well as varied residential uses. In the present economic climate, the large scale redevelopment of land in this area is unlikely. Where substantial buildings already exist on the land, then the likelihood of redevelopment in the short term is even more remote.

Meanwhile, the land owners in this area are paying very high rates on land which has been valued on the basis of its potential, under the existing B5 zone. In an effort to present some short term or interim solution to this problem, the City of Darwin Planning Authority resolved on 7 August 1979 to give notice of intention that it was considering the preparation of a draft planning instrument empowering the authority to grant consent to the temporary use of several lots in the B5 zone for office purposes, until 1 July 1982.

The lots in question had been identified by a survey carried out by officers of the Department of Lands and Housing, This survey identified 3 fundamental clases of land use within the B5 zone. The first group were those lots being used for purposes consistent with the current B5 zoning, the second group were those lots which are currently vacant or have non-substantial buildings on them, and finally there were those lots which had substantial buildings on them which did not conform with the B5 zoning and which were not likely to be redeveloped in the near future.

It is this third group that the Planning Authority refers to in its notice of intention which appeared in the NT News on the 9, 10, 11 and 13 August. It is intended that the existing buildings on each of the lots identified, could be used for office purposes until 1 July 1982. At that time, the whole situation will be reviewed and the future of this area reassessed.

The draft planning instrument is now at a stage where it is about to go on public exhibition for comment and objection for a period of 28 days. After that exhibition period, the Planning Authority will consider all the comments and objections lodged and make some decision in relation to the draft planning instrument.

867 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Who paid for repairs on the new section of road near Pine Creek, which was completed by McMahon Constructions only last year but has been closed to traffic for many months this year because of its extremely poor construction?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government.

934 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How does the Katherine development projection by Pak Poy fit in with the present desperate situation for residential, industrial and commercial land sites?

2. Has the industrial subdivision and the residential subdivision of Katherine East been deferred because of lack of funds?

3. What are the contributing factors of the desperate land shortage in Katherine?

ANSWER

1. The Pak Poy report of 1973, forecast the need to develop more land in Katherine to avert a shortage in the late 1970's. The government of the day did not act on it immediately, presumably because the demand at the time was satisfied. During 1975 and 1976, a large proportion of Commonwealth funds was diverted to the reconstruction of post-cyclone Tracy Darwin. This affected sub-division design and construction in all major Territory centres.

2. Tenders were called for the construction of Katherine East industrial sub-division during 1978-79 but the lowest tendered price was unacceptably high. The prospect of releasing land in the area, before full servicing is completed, is being considered.

3. The government has produced a draft flood policy which will be circulated for discussion in Katherine to test local reaction. A public meeting will be held and the Katherine Municipal Council's views sought as to whether they consider developing land in flood prone areas to be an aceptable proposition.

   Should this be the case, then considerable additional land can be developed within the existing town.

935 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has the Chief Minister satisfied himself that the federally funded associations in Katherine - Yulngu Association Inc. and Baruwei Enterprises Pty Ltd - are not competing unfairly with private enterprise?

2. If these associations fill a community need, will he fund other associations and unions such as the Cattlemen's Union of Australia (Katherine Branch) and the Northern Farmers and Pastoralists Association to fill a similar community need?

ANSWER

1. The Yulngu Association is a resource association established to provide assistance to Aboriginal communities on pastoral properties, and which receives federal government Grants-in-aid. The funds however, are not provided for the conduct of any commercial or quasi-commercial activities.

   Baruwei Enterprises Pty Ltd, which was established by the Yulngu Association in April 1978 for the purposes of acting as a wholesaler

for the Aboriginal communities, has been granted a loan of $503,000 by the Aboriginal Loans Commission and which now has a 51% shareholding, to enable the company to expand its operations in and around Katherine. This company would therefore appear to be operating in accordance with normal business practices. Neither association would seem to be competing unfairly with private enterprise.

2. The purpose of the associations is to assist Aboriginals and the funding is provided by the Australian Government.

It is suggested that you might seek the advice of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs regarding the funding of other associations.

939 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Are courses being devised for rural dwellers a responsibility of the KREC or a college of practical education, or an intrusion of the DCC?

ANSWER

Short courses of a practical rural nature are at present being conducted by the Katherine Rural Education Centre. A full-time course in rural education, directed towards post year 10 level of education, is presently being devised. The Katherine Rural Education Centre, under the auspices of the Department of Education, will have responsibility for planning and offering courses of both a practical and theoretical nature for people of the rural community.

940 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What steps are being taken to satisfy the demand for land in Katherine and to give this centre "over the counter" land sales?

ANSWER

Applications for sub-division of agricultural leases close to the town are being processed, and an area along the low level road is being investigated for sub-division by the government into 2 hectare blocks. These moves should satisfy the demand for rural living type blocks.

Within the town boundary, all vacant blocks are being assessed to determine whether leases are in compliance, or whether lessees wish to sub-divide if appropriate. The objective is to encourage the release of land which is not being used to satisfy the demand for residential land.

Until such time as there is serviced land available surplus to requirements, "over the counter sales" cannot take place.

944 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How many streets in Katherine are not up to the sub-divisional standard contained in the offer of local government?

ANSWER

The Katherine council assumed control of roads in Katherine on 1 July 1979.

The offer of local government to Katherine made 3 specific undertakings

for upgrading roads. These were:

- recognition of roads in the northbank small farms area as new subdivisional, not to be handed over until roadworks completed;

- completion of reseal of roads overdue for such action prior to handover; and

- upgrade the Springvale access road.

Work will commence this year on the upgrading of Springvale road and an amount of $160,000 has been allocated for the project in this year's capital works program.

The road resealing program was brought up to date by the Department of Transport and Works prior to 1.7.79 and at the time of handover, there were no outstanding NT government liabilities in this area.

In the northbank area, the existing road network is based on the present layout of rural blocks which are known to be subject to inundation at flood time.

The Department of Lands and Housing are currently planning the possible release of 2 hectare rural living blocks facing on to the old low level road with larger rural living blocks between the river and the old low level road.

The release of this land may require the network of access roads to be completely revised. Before the government can offer for lease, land within a municipality, the standard of roads must be agreed to with the council.

945 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Has a moratorium been placed on aerial baiting with 1080?

2. If so, is there justification for this action?

ANSWER

1. Yes, a temporary moratorium has been put on aerial baiting with 1080 to enable a review of the policies and examination of the effectiveness of the program.

2. The Parks and Wildlife Commission is concerned about a widespread program of aerial baiting which may well result in very substantial reductions in the population of the dingo which is an indigenous animal of the Northern Territory. The commission has decided that as the present program expanded from a trial in 1977, it is now time to assess the conservation costs, the effectiveness and the economic benefits of an aerial 1080 baiting program. The only scientific evidence which the commission has on dingo control has been provided by CSIRO who recommend that aerial baiting with 1080 is unnecessary and uneconomic.

   It is proposed that a review will be undertaken in the next 6 months in consultation with the Department of Primary Production, the pastoral industry and the CSIRO; research results will be taken into account. In the interim, any pastoralists who can identify a problem area where dingo numbers are excessively high and causing stock losses will be given every assistance by the commission staff on an individual

basis.

Note: This answer was provided by the Chief Minister as the matter falls in his area of responsibility.

947 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the road to Springvale homestead be sealed?

ANSWER

Tenders for the reconstruction of Shadford Road closed on 11 October this year. The work, which includes providing a sealed running surface, is expected to be completed in May 1980.

949 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In view of the need for small rural holdings around Katherine, will the government negotiate with local landholders such as Manbullo Station to provide such living areas?

ANSWER

The government is negotiating with lessees of land near Katherine who have made applications to subdivide. Applications are currently being processed for the sub-division of agricultural leases immediately adjacent to Katherine. It is expected that these sub-divisions will provide small rural holdings.

950 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the estimated annual cost of plumbing repairs in Katherine due to mineralisation of the water supply?

ANSWER

The annual cost to the community of using the existing bore water supply is difficult to estimate, but is considered to be in the region of $250,000. This includes costs to both the public and private sectors for such things as repair and replacement of plumbing fittings and heating appliances and water softener operating costs.

951 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. When will a virologist be appointed to the new laboratory at Berrimah?

2. Is botulism killing cattle in the Mountain Valley-Moroak-Mataranka area?

ANSWER

1. A virologist has been appointed to the Technical Officer Class 2 position and is presently in charge of the laboratory.

   The department is experiencing considerable difficulty in attracting the right person for the Officer-in-Charge, Veterinary Virologist Class 3 position. This is partly because of the remoteness of Darwin and the highly specialised nature of the position.

   A recent applicant is considered highly suitable but there is no guarantee that he will accept the position if offered.

2. Botulism is now considered to be more common in the Top End and is thought to have been the cause of cattle deaths in the Mountain Valley-Moroak-Mataranka area over the last couple of years. Vaccination for botulism appeared to prevent further deaths in 2 herds in the area which were thought to be suffering losses from botulism. The disease can be difficult to confirm by conventional laboratory means and apparent prevention of further deaths may have been coincidental.

   The A.L. Rose Virology Laboratory should prove a useful addition to our diagnostic ability, particularly in differential diagnosis of a number of diseases including suspect botulism.

   The botulism vaccine is one of the most effective and cheapest available. Cattle on any property with a history of botulism should be vaccinated.

952 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is it true that the Darwin Community College has 130 teaching staff and 3,455 equivalent full-time students?

2. Is it true that the Community College of Central Australia has 16 teaching staff and 985 equivalent full-time students?

3. Is it true that at the Darwin Community College the student/staff ratio is 27 to 1 and at the Community College of Central Australia it is 62 to 1?

4. Is it true that the Community College of Central Australia staff and council, and the Alice Springs community, had been led to believe by the minister that the change of status of the Alice Springs Community College from an annexe of the Darwin Community College to a Technical and Further Education College within the Education Department would mean that the college would receive greater funds and improve its facilities and resources?

5. Did the Council of the Community College of Central Australia seek a budget allocation of $1,435,000 for this financial year?

6. Does the allocation of only $900,000 by the government to the Community College of Central Australia indicate that post-school education in the centre can be properly served by a lesser amount than the College Council sought?

7. Does the minister recognise that the budget allocation is totally inadequate to maintain proper services to the Central Australian community?

8. Does the budget allocation of $900,000 indicate that the minister has no faith in the analysis of the needs of post-school education in the centre by the College Council?

9. If the answer to 8 is yes, does this lack of confidence in the College Council indicate that the minister will seek to change the composition of the Council; and, if so, will the College Council be replaced by departmental staff answerable to the minister?

10. If the answer to question 8 is no, will the minister ensure that the budget allocation to the Community College of Central Australia is immediately increased to the sum requested by the Council; that is $1,435,000?

ANSWER

1. Information provided by the Darwin Community College is that the various schools of the college have 150 full-time teaching staff (including 20 technicians) and 150 part-time teaching staff, as at 13 August 1979. The number of students was 379 full-time, 4,719 part-time and 194 external studies.

2. The Community College of Central Australia had 17 full-time teaching staff, and 50 part-time teaching staff with action being taken to fill at least an additional 3 positions. The number of students is 13 full-time and 1,523 part-time.

3. Because of the diversity of courses and continually changing numbers of full-time and part-time students at each college, it is difficult to establish an exact student/teacher ratio.

   My department is currently investigating means of assessing more accurately full-time equivalent of part-time students. This should permit a more realistic calculation of staff/student ratios. It should be recognised that in institutions such as the Darwin Community College and the Community College of Central Australia, staff/student ratios, when taken in isolation, can be very misleading and should be treated with caution.

4. The Community College of Central Australia approached the Commonwealth Minister for Education with a proposal to separate from the Darwin Community College to operate as a post-school education institution under the provisions of the Education Act.

5. Yes.

6. The estimation of funds for 1979-80 for the Community College of Central Australia was carried out when that college was an annexe of the Darwin Community College. Following discussion between the Darwin Community College, Treasury and the Department of Education, it was agreed that $790,000 should be excised from Darwin Community College funds for the Community College of Central Australia. It was agreed that this sum would be sufficient to maintain the status quo as it incorporated actual expenditure for 1978-79 plus an inflation and growth factor. Cabinet finally allocated $900,000 which allows for some expansion of activity.

7. It will be obvious from my previous comments that the budget allocation is adequate to maintain existing services and allow a modest expansion of activity.

8. - 9. - 10. The answer to question 6 and 7 disposes of the necessity to answer these questions.

954 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Is the minister aware of the case of Emily Jako Nambajimba, who was sentenced to 2 years gaol in 1977 with a non-parole period of 4 months?

2. Is the minister aware that this woman was not granted parole even though the judge, Mr Justice Muirhead, asked the Parole Board to find suitable accommodation for Ms Jako as "she is, in fact, no criminal but a young woman, an epileptic, suffering a most serious personality disorder"?

3. What steps were taken to find the suitable accommodation recommended by the judge?

4. Does the minister agree that there is an urgent need for a half-way home facility in Alice Springs to take care of people like Emily Jako Nambajimba?

5. Is the minister aware that there are several other people in urgent need of such a facility?

6. Will the minister take action to ensure such a facility is provided?

7. What does the minister suggest should be done for Ms Jako to ensure she receives a "meaningful program for her care" as Mr Justice Muirhead suggested?

ANSWER

1. Yes.

2. Yes.

3. Every effort was taken to find suitable accommodation for Emily Jako Nambajimba including an interstate placement in what could be described as a home for young women. Miss Nambajimba either declined to accept these accommodation arrangements or they proved to be unsuitable to her needs.

4. Half-way house facilities that have been established elsewhere are normally designed to cater for ex-prisoners or ex-psychiatric patients. In the case of Miss Nambajimba, accommodation in a half-way house facility for ex-prisoners would not be appropriate to her needs. The question of establishment of a half-way house with a medical orientation is outside the ambit of my portfolio.

   Half-way house facilities have been subjected to critical evaluation both interstate and overseas. The results of the studies have been equivocal in regard to their effectiveness.

5. I am advised that at this point there is not a need for the establishment of a half-way house for ex-prisoners in Alice Springs. However, my department will continue to monitor this situation.

6. I do not intend at this stage to proceed with the establishment of a half-way house until the need for such a facility is clearly established.

7. Judge Muirhead acknowledged the difficulty of this case before referring it reluctantly to the Parole Board for consideration. I am advised there are many complex and difficult problems associated with this case. During the times they have access to her, my staff continue in their efforts to develop constructive post-release alternatives.

956 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

(a) Who are the members of the Oral History Committee?

(b) What are their qualifications?

(c) What are the terms of reference of the committee?

(d) Where is it intended that the material collected be stored?

(e) Is it intended that this material be available for use (e.g. in publications) and, if so, is the donor's permission obtained?

(f) Do interviewers receive any training?

(g) In selecting interviewees, what efforts are made to minimise biases in the collection towards certain periods or events, districts or racial groups?

ANSWER

(a) Harry Giese (Chairman), Peter Spillett, Don Dickson, Peter Forrest, Jim Bowditch, Vern O'Brien and Dr "Slim" Bauer.

(b) Harry Giese - Co-founder, NT Historical Society; some experience as interviewer of old Territorians.

Peter Spillett - President, NT Historical Society; Councillor, Oral History Association of Australia; Author/ Historian; Churchill Fellow (NT History).

Don Dickson - B.A., Dip. Ed. (Sydney); M.Ed. (PNG); Thesis for M.Ed. on "Documentary and Oral History Sources"; published journals and articles on history; Examiner and Supervisor for Masters and Ph.D. history students.

Peter Forrest - Director of National Trust.

Jim Bowditch - Editor, Central Australian Advocate, for 4 years and 19 years Editor of NT News from late 1954; has written widely on NT including articles with major historical content.

Vern O'Brien - Secretary, Department of Mines and Energy; Author of articles dealing with various aspects of Territory history; preparing a book on David Lindsay.

Dr "Slim" Bauer - Ph.D.; Field Director, North Australia Research Unit (ANU) since 1974; completed definitive study of early history of land settlement in North Australia.

(c) The major role of the committee is the collection of historical data in the form of personal recollections of people and events from persons who have had a lengthy association with the Territory. At the same time the committee is concerned to collect and store any documents, materials, etc. which people interviewed are prepared to make available for archival purposes and possible display in the Territory.

(d) The tapes and transcribed material, together with documentary material, photographs, newspapers, pamphlets, etc. will be stored in a selected area of the Commonwealth Archives building in Darwin.

(e) In all cases people supplying the information are asked whether they wish to place any restrictions or limitations on the use of the material. Their wishes will be scrupulously followed. The material will be available to bona fide students of history and writers.

(f) At the present time interviewers have been selected on the basis of previous experience in undertaking interviewing associated with oral history programs and other forms of information collecting. Pamphlets, publications and instructions on the collection of oral history material is being provided to them as it is obtained. The first of a series of seminars will be held shortly where people presently undertaking work can extend their experience and where other persons who may be interested in offering themselves as interviewers can obtain an understanding of what is involved.

(g) The question has not yet arisen. As the program develops, any biases which may become apparent will be progressively ironed out.

957 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How and when will the new director of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission be selected?

2. What qualifications will be required for the position?

3. What will the salary be?

4. Can the minister give an assurance that the government will make every endeavour and advertise internationally to get the best possible person for the job?

5. Who will be on the selection panel for the position?

ANSWER

1. The new director of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission will be selected in the same manner as all other heads of departments and prescribed authorities, i.e.:

   - the position will be advertised inside and outside the Public Service; and

   - the selection committee will examine applications and recommend an appointment to the minister.

   The position was advertised in the Government Gazette of 25.10.79 and the press commencing the same week.

2. Prime qualifications required will be proven high level management ability combined with a background in conservation and wildlife park management.

3. At present it is Executive Level E6 - currently $32,585 - plus district allowance, but the salary may have to be negotiated to secure the best applicant as most states directors' salaries are higher than being offered here.

4. The government will make every endeavour to get the best person for the job. Advertising will not be outside Australia.

5. In accordance with standard practice the selection panel will be composed of persons recommended to the Chief Minister by the Public Service Commissioner. The usual makeup is the Public Service Commissioner and another departmental head or appropriate specialist.

958 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Does he agree that there is an urgent need for an Aboriginal vocational training facility at the Community College of Central Australia?

2. Did the minister inspect a facility in Priest Street, Alice Springs, called "Sportorama" and agree that this would meet the needs of an Aboriginal vocational training facility?

3. Was the building valued and, if so, how much was it valued at?

4. Did the minister agree that the property should be acquired for Aboriginal vocational training purposes and that acquisition should be made in this financial year?

5. Is there an allocation in the budget for acquiring this facility and, if not, why?

6. Will the minister ask Cabinet to ensure that the premises are acquired this financial year?

ANSWER

1. It is recognised that there is a need for some form of Aboriginal vocational training facility in Alice Springs.

2. Officers of the Department of Education have inspected premises called "Sportorama" which could be suitable for a vocational training facility. This could include activities related to Aboriginal vocational training.

3. The Valuer-General has assessed the property including machinery and improvements and his valuation is now known to the government.

4. A decision to acquire this property has not yet been made.

5. No provision has been made in the 1979-80 budget for specific acquisition of this property because it was first necessary for the premises to be valued. The Valuer-General's valuation has only recently been received.

6. No assurance can be given that the department will acquire the property this financial year until all aspects of the proposal have been fully considered.

1008 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What was the breakdown of expenditure of the Office of Information for the year 1978-79?

ANSWER

Salaries and allowances	$	180,475.51
Travel	$	5,619.08
Printing	$	26,737.53
Photographic requisites	$	7,975.59
Incidentals	$	4,922.36
TOTAL	$	225,730.07

1012 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Why was the Nightcliff-Fannie Bay connector road located so far into the Kulaluk area and away from existing roads at Ludmilla?

2. How much has this increased the cost of the road compared to connecting Totem Road to Nemarluk Drive and Nemarluk Drive to Fannie Bay by the shortest possible route, with provision for a noise barrier to houses affected in Ludmilla?

3. Does locating the road deep into Kulaluk land ruin or decrease the chance of using reclaimed land there (i.e., cyclone garbage dump) for ovals in the future?

ANSWER

1. The location of the connector road between Fitzer Drive and Ludmilla Creek has been chosen to provide an adquate buffer between Ludmilla North residents and the expected traffic. It was originally proposed to connect Nemarluk Drive to Coconut Grove Road and then to provide for an intersecting road from Nemarluk Drive, south of the old sewer treatment area, to Playford Street via the waste water treatment plant. This proposal was rejected because of the effect this would have on residents of Nemarluk Drive and the hazards that would occur by use of an intersection as previously described. This has not affected the alignment of the connector road north of a point opposite Tudawali Street.

2. The development now under construction is actually shorter than that utilising Nemarluk Drive. Because existing roads are not being utilised the cost of construction was increased by approximately $200,000 based on proposals considered in 1977. However, the savings to motorists in running costs alone for the 1 km shorter journey have been estimated to be in excess of $100,000 per year. The overall cost to the community is thus much less than if we had opted to use Nemarluk Drive.

3. As already stated, it is only a very short length near the southern part of Kulaluk, that the alignment differs from that which would have been used to connect to Nemarluk Drive. Large areas of land remain, both on the cyclone dump and elsewhere, that can be developed for sports ovals or other recreational purposes. This possibility has not been compromised by the alignment selected.

1014 Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

In answer to Question No. 326 regarding eradication of hyptis at Obiri Rock, the Chief Minister said:

"Weedicides have not been used at this stage because they are considered to be ineffective according to the advice we have."

1. Who gave this advice to the Chief Minister?

2. Does the Chief Minister have confidence in his own Department of Primary Production?

3. Is he aware that officers of the NT Department of Primary Production are certain that some weedicides (e.g., 2 4 D) are effective against hyptis?

ANSWER

1. The source of that advice cannot be located. However, a better answer would be that the broadscale use of weedicide for practical long term control of hyptis in the Alligator Rivers Region does not appear to be the most suitable means of control. Hyptis is widespread in the area and broadscale use of weedicide in a national park has serious consequences. The control of hyptis can possibly be undertaken by other means.

2. Yes.

3. Yes.

1015 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What are the minister's intentions in regard to the early integration of handicapped children into the school system?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Department of Education is committed to a policy of integration for handicapped pre-school age children wherever it can, in the interests of the child, be achieved. I am unaware of any case of a pre-school age handicapped child being refused admission to a pre-school. Where it is considered that immediate integration of a handicapped child into a regular pre-school is not in the best interests of that child (this would apply in severe cases of handicap requiring close paramedical treatment), then I have undertaken to provide educational assistance to the Darwin Spastic Centre, to those children whose parents elect to send them to that institution.

In relation to the philosophy of integration, I would like to make it quite clear that for a small number of children this will be at best a long term goal, and placement in a special school will work most effectively towards the achievement of this goal.

My department prefers not to see the integration/segregation arguments polarise. It prefers to use the policy statement of the Australian Association of Special Education as its guide when it defined integration as a "maximum useful association consistent with the interest of both groups", i.e. handicapped and non-handicapped.

At present I am prepared to consider early admission to a pre-school for deaf and severely visually impaired children if, in the opinion of a placement and review panel, it is thought that early intervention could lead to later educational gains. The Stuart Park pre-school is specifically designated for the deaf and the Tiwi pre-school for the blind.

The services of the Spastic Centre are already available for other forms of handicapped conditions among children of below pre-school age. I have already indicated that I have undertaken to provide educational assistance to the Darwin Spastic Centre.

1016 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he ascertain from the federal Minister for Transport the cause of an incident at Tindal airport on Tuesday 2 October 1979 involving a TAA Friendship aircraft, a Lear Jet and a light aircraft from Darwin and obtain from the minister, for the information of the Assembly, details of any action he is taking to prevent such incidents occurring in the future?

ANSWER

Matters involving air safety are the responsibility of the federal Minister for Transport. I therefore suggest the honourable member makes representations to him.

1017 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the need for and the practicability of establishing a barramundi hatchery in the Territory been investigated and, if so, with what results?

ANSWER

To date, the Fisheries Division has made no detailed investigation on the needs and practicability of establishing a barramundi hatchery in the Northern Territory. Such a hatchery would only be necessary in the following circumstances:

(a) if a reproductive failure of wild stocks necessitated restocking of natural waters;

(c) where large freshwater empoundments incorporating recreational fishing have been constructed; and

(d) if commercial pond rearing of barramundi becomes economically feasible.

As none of these circumstances had arisen in the Northern Territory, no investigation of the feasibility of a barramundi hatchery has been warranted.

Research officers of the Fisheries Division are monitoring developments in this field, particularly in South-east Asia where there has been limited success in developing hatchery techniques. However, the establishment of a reliable hatchery system for barramundi is still in the early stages of development and a considerable amount of additional research will be necessary before a routine system becomes available.

1018 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

To whom and for what kinds of licences should persons wishing to establish crocodile farms in the Territory apply?

ANSWER

Within the Northern Territory, it is illegal to kill, take, possess or dispose of any crocodile or crocodile product except as provided for in a permit issued under the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act. The government is examining the feasibility of establishing crocodile farming under appropriate controls and applications should be made to the Director of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission.

This answer was provided by the Chief Minister who is the minister responsible in this area.

1053 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is the Northern Territory government negotiating to purchase the Baptist Hostel in Katherine?

2. If so, what is the purpose of the purchase?

3. What studies have been undertaken to show a demand for the purpose indicated in answer to 2. above?

ANSWER

1. Yes.

2. Primarily for the accommodation of children from remote areas for educational purposes.

3. Studies of the educational needs of children from remote areas are continuing. Enrolment figures for the School of the Air provide some guide. Parents' views also have been obtained to determine desirable terms of residence.

1055 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Have the Police been provided with powers to move loiterers and lay-abouts from the vicinity of public toilets in Katherine and, if so, have the Police been instructed to use them?

ANSWER

The Police have limited powers to deal with loitering offences. A bill before the Assembly will expand those powers and if the bill is passed and becomes law, the Police will enforce those expanded provisions in the same way as they enforce all laws of the Territory.

1056 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Does his government intend to exercise the same powers over unalienated land in the Territory as is exercised by state governments over unalienated land in each state?

ANSWER

Yes.

1061 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the Chief Minister aware that individual police officers are negotiating with individual high school principals to obtain daily absentee lists? Would the Chief Minister confer with his colleague, the Minister for Education, to put a stop to this practice?

ANSWER

I am not aware of this practice. I will look into the matter to ascertain whether there is such a practice and, if so, the intention of the practice.

1062 Mr VALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he advise whether or not matriculation classes will be conducted at Sadadeen High School in Central Australia?

ANSWER

Much has been spoken about this issue over the last couple of weeks. I understand that the problem will be somewhat exacerbated by very lengthy articles in this week's Centralian Advocate. The concern of parents has arisen largely out of an answer I gave in the House on 10 May 1978, some 14 months before the function of education was transferred to the Northern Territory. My responsibility to this House at that time was to answer questions for the information of honourable members based on information given to me by the Commonwealth government. Whilst the level of consultation between myself and the Commonwealth was very good indeed, the executive decision-making did not lie with me. It does now and I am determined to make decisions in the best interests of Territory children and in light of current information and advice.

With the exception of one adviser only, I am advised that a matriculation program at Sadadeen High School would not be in the interests of children attending there. Indeed, it would not be in the interests of secondary education in Alice Springs as a whole. My advice is such that I have every reason to believe that such a move would destroy matriculation in Alice Springs as a whole. There are 47 matriculation students in Alice Springs at the moment and 45 is regarded by my advisers as being the absolute minimum possible to run a viable matriculation program. Indeed, to offer all of the electives and options normally associated down south with matriculation classes, you would require about 60 students. Nevertheless, 47 is viable. To have 2 parallel programs would result in a greatly reduced number of students in each. In other words, instead of there being 47-50 at Alice Springs High, there would be approximately 25 in each high school. As such, my advisers inform me that there would be very little prospect of the students doing a successful matriculation program.

The proposal I am putting to parents in a letter dated 12 November 1979 will offer yet another option. Alice Springs High at the moment is the only place to offer a year 12 in the Northern Territory. It is our intention to upgrade the standing of that year 12 certificate in the eyes of the community. In addition, the second high school

in Alice Springs gives us a unique opportunity to provide a third stream of education, one that is very close to your heart, Sir. It is proposed to offer in this third stream a school of vocational studies in years 11 and 12. That school of vocational studies will be broken into 2 sections: vocational studies technical on one side and vocational studies business and administration on the other.

The proposal to parents will be that years 8, 9 and 10 in both Alice Springs High and Sadadeen High will be of a parallel nature so that students who wish to attend Sadadeen through years 8, 9 and 10 will not be disadvantaged in any way if they wish to move to Alice Springs High to do the matriculation program. Similarly, those students in Alice Springs High will have the opportunity, if they so wish, to transfer to the vocationally orientated Sadadeen High. The further advantage of this system will be that the program of vocational training will be done by way of what is called "link courses" with the Community College of Central Australia. Specialist tuition will be made available to students of Sadadeen High who wish to undertake a vocationally biased secondary education system. If the parents of Alice Springs agree to this program, it is also proposed to enter into discussions with colleges of advanced education around Australia who are interested in linking with the Northern Territory such that the year 12 certificate in vocational studies can be seen as an admission to colleges of advanced education to undertake such degree courses as Batchelor of Business Administration and diplomas in electronics and so on.

What we are offering to the people of Alice Springs is a very new and very exciting program in secondary education. It is not to be seen as a downgrading of Sadadeen High in any way. We are offering the whole of the Alice Springs district a third stream of education and you, Sir, would be well aware of the national concern of having people properly trained in schools to handle vocational activities in this very complex and technical world.

1063 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Is he aware that, following approval of an application for a loan from the 4% home loan scheme, it takes 6 weeks for the loan moneys to become available? If he is aware of this, could be explain to the House this seemingly unreasonable administrative delay?

ANSWER

I am not aware whether it normally takes 6 weeks after approval for loans to come through the system or whether that is an exception to the rule. However, I will endeavour to obtain information from the Housing Commission and advise the House later this sittings. I personally see no reason for such a delay because there certainly are adequate funds available for this particular program. That certainly is not the reason for any possible delay that may exist.

1064 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Dr John Campbell of the New South Wales Health Commission has been in Darwin examining the hospital system. He is due to make a report to the minister shortly. Could the minister inform me whether that report will be made public or not?

ANSWER

Dr Campbell is on secondment to the Northern Territory from the New South Wales Health Commission. His report is expected to be in our hands before the end of November. I have not addressed myself to the issue of whether the report should be public or confidential. I could not decide until I see the report. I cannot give the honourable member an indication at this stage of whether it will be tabled at some future date.

1065 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that the Solicitor-General has received a complaint alleging that the Minister for Community Development committed an offence against the Child Welfare Ordinance? In view of the gravity of the allegation that a minister had breached the provisions of an act that he himself administers, will the Chief Minister assure the House that the matter will be investigated as a matter of urgency?

ANSWER

The honourable member for Fannie Bay appears to be making a political issue of what is essentially a matter for the proper administration of justice. Matters that relate to alleged criminal offences should not be brought into this House even though the honourable member for Fannie Bay has plenty of good precedents on her side of the political coin for attempting to try to convict men in absentia in other places. She certainly can take a correspondence course from the New South Wales Attorney-General on how to pillory a man when he has not been given any rights at all to answer for himself. This is an attempt by a politician in the Northern Territory to prejudice the course of justice. If there is a complaint and if it has been lodged with the Solicitor-General, he will investigate it. If he finds that there is any substance to the complaint, he will no doubt issue a summons.

1066 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Which government department has responsibility for the housing and house repairs at Coastal Plains Research Station and which government department collects the rent for these houses?

ANSWER

The Primary Industry Division has that responsibility.

1067 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Why was Mr Ken Day allowed to illegally extract $375,000 worth of tin from Collia mine and who gave him permission?

ANSWER

I am not sure that Mr Ken Day has actually mined $375,000 worth of tin. Together with 3 other parties, Mr Day claims to have an interest in a mine called Collia. They have been operating for some time. They have recourse to settle at law the issue amongst themselves. The issue was referred to the Wardens Court earlier this year and was not resolved. It was then sent back to the parties to try to resolve it while the operation of the mine continued. The matter is still not resolved but it will again be referred to the Wardens Court at the earliest possible time so that the parties can appear together before the Mining Warden to have this dispute settled. I would not care to say anything more than that until the matter has been dealt with by the Mining Warden.

1068 Mr BALLANTYNE to CHIEF MINISTER

In light of the recent crocodile sightings at recreational areas in Gove, has a report been received by the Chief Minister in relation to the number of crocodiles reported at recreational areas or other areas on the Gove Peninsula? If not, will there be a feasibility study on the monitoring of such sightings?

ANSWER

A few weeks ago, the honourable member for Nhulunbuy asked whether there would be a survey of the number of crocodiles in that area. My recollection is that the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission was to undertake such a survey. The results of the survey have not reached my desk at this stage. It is a job that will take some time because crocodiles are apparently not animals that walk up and introduce themselves to the people looking for them. I will inquire into the matter and try to give the honourable member some indication as to when the survey is likely to be completed.

1069 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can the Chief Minister inform the House when he expects to make a decision about the purchase of Connair?

ANSWER

The purchase of Connair is a matter for the shareholders of Connair. I understand from reading the popular press and many communications that come my way that there are various parties interested in buying Connair. Those people are free to negotiate with the Connair company for its purchase. Indeed, we heard not so many weeks ago an announcement that the company had been sold. Subsequently, there appeared to be considerable doubt as to whether that was in fact the case. The Northern Territory government has indicated that any party purchasing Connair without the Northern Territory government's approval could not expect an automatic grant of additional civil aviation licences within the Northern Territory when it became the province of the Northern Territory government to grant those licences.

At present, a panel of 3 members, chaired by Mr John Riley, the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Transport and Works - I do not recall the names of the 2 other members of the panel but they are both people from outside the Territory who have long experience in civil aviation: I think one of them was our civil aviation attache at the Washington Embassy at some stage - is looking over applications that we have received from TAA, Ansett, East-West Airlines and one or two others in relation to the future grant of licences within the Territory. I assume that it will take them some weeks to arrive at a decision because the matter is complex and I do not know whether they have actually met to look at the applications as yet. After they have made a decision, I would expect that they would submit their decision, together with the reasons therefore, for final ratification by Cabinet and an announcement would thereafter be made to the public.

1070 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for Community Development

I have heard recently that Palmerston House is scheduled to be demolished. Could he inform me if this is correct and, if so, when is that demolition to commence?

ANSWER

At the moment Palmerston House is being used by the Department of Community Development for the storage of refrigerators and other equipment until such time as a firm plan is made to demolish the premises. I am unable to provide any further information.

1071 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

What arrangements have been made in the Northern Territory Public Service and statutory authorities for the employment of Territory tertiary students during the forthcoming long vacation?

ANSWER

Various arrangements have been made. I do not have the full details with me at this time but I can obtain them from the Public Service Commissioner. There have been arrangements made in Alice Springs, I understand, for students to work with the Department of Transport and Works and in other departments and I am certainly not aware that all these students will be paid. Offers have been made in some circumstances for students to gain job experience rather than actually work for a wage. I will obtain full details for the honourable member and supply them later in the sittings.

1072 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it planned to close down the Coastal Plains Research Station?

ANSWER

It is not proposed to close down any research station in the Northern Territory even though there has been some public discussion about the closure of the Katherine Experimental Farm. There is some variation to the activities being undertaken at that farm and I note your remarks, Sir, in regard to rural education facilities in that region. These will be considered. There is no departmental or governmental instruction or policy to close down any research

station whatsoever.

1073 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he confirm that the proposed connecting road between Lovegrove Drive and Smith Street in Alice Springs will be in the same position as originally planned?

ANSWER

I am unable to give that confirmation to the honourable member. The area in question is currently being re-arranged to some extent to cater for railway lines and other facilities.

1074 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Could he advise on the progress relating to the working party report on a Northern Territory teaching service which is believed to have been completed about last July?

ANSWER

To the best of my knowledge, the time period which we had set for community and parent reaction to the working party's report has now expired. The collation of all that information is being done at the moment and I will be going to Cabinet with the results. The matter will then become one for Cabinet's consideration. I had proposed to the members of the working party that they reconvene briefly to consider the comments made on their report. From memory, I think that all parties, with the exception of the Northern Territory Teachers Federation, agreed to do so. It seems that, in the absence of cooperation from the federation, it will not be possible to reconvene the working party to examine comments. The matter will now take its course and become a matter for Cabinet.

1075 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What plans are there to upgrade library facilities in Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

An overall policy to use the infrastructure of the Education Department throughout the Northern Territory is currently being examined by the government. I am very happy to say that, in the initial stages of the Nhulunbuy High School, facilities will be upgraded to provide a library service not only for the school but also for the community. This is a first step towards community use of many of the Education Department's infrastructures. We were not able to use it prior to 1 July but, in consultation with the Minister for Education, the government is seeking ways to use education infrastructures, especially those in remote areas, for community purposes.

1076 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

At previous sittings of the Assembly, it was the minister's intention to make a ministerial statement on the status of education services in the Northern Territory. Is it his intention to proceed with that statement at this sittings?

ANSWER

Yes. However, due to the time lapse, some updating is necessary but I will try to present it at this sitting.

1077 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of a proposal by the Territory Parks and Wildlife Service to obtain possession of former mining tenements identified by numbers 1K and 7K of some 2.4 hectares in area which were formerly part of Oolloo Station and, if so, what is the purpose intended for this land?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, you will have to forgive me if my answer is not 100% correct because I do not really carry the mining registers of the Northern Territory in my head. I think that those areas are the leases at the Oolloo crossing which somebody took out some years ago and erected a store. The Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission has acquired those interests for the purpose of setting up a ranger station and a small reserve in that part of the country. Honourable members would be aware that the Daly River Wildlife Reserve is across the river in that area. It is a long time since the proposal came to me. If the honourable member wants more complete details, she should ask me a question on notice and I will supply them.

1078 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Have the inspectors been appointed for after hours policing of illegal sand and gravel mining in the rural areas?

ANSWER

At this stage, additional staff have not been appointed to undertake the surveillance to which the honourable member for Tiwi refers. However, there has been a reorganisation of the environmental inspectorial side of the department to ensure that officers can work after hours and on weekends to maintain surveillance over some of the illegal mining that does occur in the area.

1079 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has he received the results of the youth needs inquiry which was carried out in the Northern Territory this year and is it intended that those results be made public?

ANSWER

I have received the report and I believe some 200 copies have been circulated. It is a matter of my taking it to Cabinet and, after that, I hope to be able to table it in the Assembly.

1080 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In view of the proposed hobby farms adjacent to some towns further up the track, can he advise what the situation is relating to hobby farms in the Alice Springs area?

ANSWER

I would have to seek some further information for the honourable member. There is a small area near Alice Springs which is called a farms area but which is not strictly a viable economic unit for farms. I believe some of the area may be used for what is termed these days "hobby farms" for semi-rural pursuits consistent with the availability of water and good soil. I am unaware of any particular proposal to have a specific subdivision created near Alice Springs for sale as hobby farms. The areas immediately adjacent to Alice Springs have a series of problems in relation to this type of activity as far as soil types and water supply is concerned. In particular, there is concern expressed by people from the Primary Industry Division and the Parks and Wildlife Commission in relation to any activities relating to the running of animals on areas which are liable to be overgrazed very quickly, particularly as Alice Springs may not continue to enjoy the very good wet seasons that it has had in the past few years. Such activity has to be carefully watched to ensure that serious harm is not done to the environment in Alice Springs. Certainly, the hobby farms concept envisages a small area of land on which a person may keep a number of animals and use for agricultural purposes. If the honourable member wishes a more specific answer or wishes to make a proposal, I would appreciate a letter from him.

1081 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I read a report recently in the Northern Territory News that said that problems had been experienced in the processing of Taiwanese fishing vessels. Was this report correct and, if so, could he give me some detail on the problems?

ANSWER

I understand there were some quarantine difficulties. From the Fisheries Division's point of view, there were few difficulties. I propose to make a statement on the Taiwanese vessel situation at a later time.

1082 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

When will the Chief Minister make a statement concerning his recent negotiations with the federal government over the control of Jabiru and the Kakadu National Park?

ANSWER

When I am in a position to do so.

1083 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Following on from my repeated requests to the minister regarding bus services to the Darwin rural area, when will this service be inaugurated?

ANSWER

I must give the honourable member an 'A' for persistence but, unfortunately, the extension of the bus service in any way at all is just beyond our financial capacity at this time. Obviously, it is a year

to year proposition. The cost of a bus is about $85,000. To employ extra people will cost between $12,000 and $15,000 per person not counting the extra costs involved. It is not proposed that any extension of the bus services will be made at present.

1084 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

As he has now received submissions concerning the future use of Carpentaria College, would he advise the House when his government will be deciding the future of that area?

ANSWER

The department has received a small number of applications relating to the future use of Carpentaria College. They are being collated in the form of a briefing to me. I have not received it but I understand it is complete. I hope to receive it within a few days and to submit it to Cabinet for a recommendation and a final settling of the whole question. Hopefully, this will be after the next Cabinet meeting in about a fortnight.

1085 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The land formerly occupied by the Parap Infant School has been vacant for nearly 5 years since the cyclone. When does he anticipate that a decision will be made as to the future use of this land?

ANSWER

I do not have that specific information with me. I am not sure what the land is zoned for currently under the Darwin Town Plan. However, I will undertake to establish what it is proposed to use the land for and advise the honourable member.

1086 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The minister mentioned that progress announcements on a solution to the parking problems being experienced in the main city area will be made shortly. Is he able to give me more details on those proposals at this time?

ANSWER

I cannot release any further details on this matter until it has been considered by Cabinet and certain decisions made. However, I would like to advise the House that a fairly recent statement in the local newspaper was incorrect. It implied that an agreement had been reached with the local city council on the future of the government's involvement and the corporation's involvement in car parking in the central business district of Darwin. We have had a working party working closely with the city council with a view to coming up with an acceptable solution to what is developing into a very serious problem. The government has accepted a degree of responsibility to assist the corporation in establishing permanent car parking in the central business district. The situation has certainly been outside the control of the city corporation up until very recently when, through the implementation of the new Planning Act, local government gained a majority of members

on the Town Planning Authority. Therefore, it is now in a position to control the conditions whereby car parking spaces will be provided by developers in the future.

However, the government accepts a degree of responsibility for the situation as it has evolved today. I now have a Cabinet submission prepared detailing recommendations on the level of government assistance. It proposes the establishment of a car parking trust which would receive all income from car parking revenues in the city as well as governmental assistance if any. The trust would administer land and car parking facilities which may be constructed. The trust would also have the ability to borrow up to $1.2m outside loan council approval. On the proposals that have been presented so far, it seems to me to be a very workable and sensible solution to a fairly complex problem. I cannot give any more details until Cabinet has made certain decisions on the matter.

1087 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Does he or an officer of his department, as a matter of practice, inform the relevant traditional owners when the Chief Minister issues permits for entry onto Aboriginal land pursuant to the Aboriginal Land Act? If not, will he consider implementing the practice?

ANSWER

I personally sign all permits for public servants who are entering or are likely to enter upon Aboriginal land. These permits are signed on the application of the department, placed in a plastic cover and remain valid until revoked. When public servants intend to enter Aboriginal land in the course of their duty - and that is the only circumstance in which those particular permits may be used - they are required to telegram the local community about the purposes of the visit and when it is likely to take place. Generally speaking, it is hoped that they will receive an acknowledgement that the visit will be in order. Unfortunately, due to poor communications in the bush and perhaps to less than 100% efficiency with office administration, answers are not always received to these communications. Indeed, it is alleged on occasions that public servants enter upon Aboriginal land without first notifying their intention to do so. Nevertheless, at my request, a number of circulars have been sent through the whole public service asking that this practice be adopted and adhered to. We endeavour to rectify any complaints received from individual communities or through the Northern Land Council.

However, I must say that there is a degree of reluctance by public servants, for instance, to wear the permits on their shirts as has been requested in some places. There have been misunderstandings because some public servants have not first called at community council offices as has generally been requested. These incidents are understandable when one considers that not every public servant is experienced in moving around these communities. Many community council officers are entirely anonymous and one only knows who they are through experience. I have asked communities, through the Northern Land Council and some directly, to mark their community council offices prominently. I have also asked that public servants, upon entering an Aboriginal community, to attend first at the community council office. I do not know that there is a great deal more that we can do.

1088 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware that the dreaded noxious weed mimosa is abundant at Kulaluk and, if so, what does he intend to do about it?

ANSWER

I was not aware specifically that mimosa was growing at Kulaluk. I was aware that there is a small acreage in that area populated with bovine species of which the honourable gentleman may not have been aware. I am aware that mimosa is scattered throughout the Adelaide River region and the Primary Industry Division is taking measures to control the spread of this weed along with other weed prevention proposals being undertaken.

1089 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he inform me if the recent shortage of avgas has had any detrimental effect on the coastal surveillance program and, if so, what steps have been taken to overcome the problem?

ANSWER

I cannot reflect about the impact that any avgas shortage or alleged shortage may have had on coastal surveillance. My understanding is that the avgas shortage that we experienced in August and September has been substantially overcome. The normal levels of activity in the third level of our airline industry have been maintained and no disruption or shortage in avgas is expected at least before next March.

1090 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

He will be aware that he has 2 public housing lists under his control, one dealing with Northern Territory Public Service housing and the other dealing with public sector housing. Can he change the policy so that persons transferring from one list to the other may retain any accrued waiting time?

ANSWER

I guess the honourable member was seeking an affirmative answer but I find that difficult because I can foresee a number of problems. I will undertake to examine the matter but, in the meantime, I suggest that the honourable member write me a letter on the subject so that I can formally respond to that.

1093 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

My question relates to the statement attributed to the minister in the NT News a couple of days ago in relation to the Darwin Trader. What is the latest information on the future of this service and what steps are being taken by the Northern Territory government to prevent the service ending?

ANSWER

The question of the Darwin Trader ceasing its regular service to Darwin has been one of great concern to the Northern Territory government and indeed to everyone in the Northern Territory. We thought a solution had been reached when ANL, Portland Cement and Norcement agreed to a contract for the delivery of cement to Darwin. This particular contract fell through and ANL attempted to obtain a freight agreement with Burns Philp and Brighton Cement. This did not eventuate either. The government set up a committee to look at alternatives with the Darwin Trader at the time. Amongst other alternatives we considered Bourkes Shipping.

The Trader is currently undergoing a refit and there is no indication from the Commonwealth or from ANL that it will be removed from the shipping route. However, we are concerned about the possibility that they may remove the Trader from the shipping route. If this was to eventuate, we would expect several months notice. The committee that the government originally set up for the purpose of looking at alternative shipping has now been reconvened. We are pressing for a continuation of the service after the refit has been carried out and we are looking at viable alternatives for another shipping service.

1094 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it the policy of the government to provide housing for government employees in outback areas? If so, are the Aboriginal health workers who are employed by the Health Department provided with housing in the same way as other government employees in outback areas and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

The government's policy is to provide housing for all employees of the public service wherever they are forced to reside in the course of their employment. Funds are allocated each year in the budget for the provision of public service housing. The Northern Territory government has embarked on some ambitious programs through the Departments of Health and Education to train and employ numerous Aboriginal health workers and teachers. We recognise that we have a responsibility to provide housing for public servants such as these and we will move as quickly as we can within our financial capacity to provide the appropriate housing.

1095 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will the houses in Stow Road, Howard Springs, built for gaol staff at Gunn Point Prison Farm be occupied and will all the houses be occupied?

ANSWER

I understand that the houses are completed and are now awaiting final inspection by the department. As soon as that is done, the houses will be allocated to prison officers.

1096 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he able to inform this House when the Casuarina Hospital will be open to receive patients?

ANSWER

The main ward block at Casuarina Hospital has been handed over in the last couple of weeks to the Department of Health which is in the process of commissioning it. It is anticipated that the ward will start to receive patients in March 1980. Present planning indicates that there will be 360 beds and cots available when the unit opens.

1097 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it the intention of the government to impose a 100 kilometre per hour speed limit on all Territory rural roads?

ANSWER

The question has not been decided at this stage. No doubt these questions are being raised because of the energy situation.

1098 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it proposed that he will meet with the parents in Alice Springs to discuss openly the new proposals for Sadadeen High School?

ANSWER

In answer to the honourable member's question, might I try to restate what I indicated yesterday. It is not a question solely of Sadadeen High School but a question of a composite education system for the entire Alice Springs district. I think the parents of the children at present at Sadadeen must recognise the reality of that. The proposal is not confined solely to one school but will affect students from Tennant Creek to the South Australian border. It will be a composite system of 3 streams of education.

To answer the question specifically, it is certainly my proposal to have a public meeting with parents in Alice Springs who have children in all schools in Alice Springs - primary, secondary and private schools - because they are affected by the type of secondary education which the Northern Territory government provides. I anticipate that that meeting will occur tomorrow fortnight, probably at a school other than Sadadeen in order to make it quite clear that it is a matter of concern to the whole community. Of course, it is also of paramount

concern to the parents who have their children at Sadadeen at the moment and those who are looking forward to placing their children in Sadadeen next year and the year after.

1099 Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What plans has the department to provide additional residential land in Central Australia? Will his department examine the possibility of making alternative residential block sizes available?

ANSWER

Confining my remarks to Alice Springs rather than Central Australia as a whole, the current turn-off of land for this particular year in Alice Springs for 1979-80 is expected to be a total of 410 lots. Some of those have been sold already to the private sector and quite a number have been allocated to the Housing Commission. The 410 lots are considered to be above the actual demand for land in Alice Springs. In 1980-81, it is expected that another 340 will be available. These will be lots for single unit dwellings, houses and town houses. For 1981-82, a further 440 lots are programmed. For flats and home units, the terminology used is land for a certain number of units rather than blocks of land because that can be misleading in that a few blocks can provide many units of accommodation. Land will be turned off for 90 units in the current financial year, 100 units in 1980-81 and 120 units in 1981-82.

The second part of the question referred to the release of varying sized parcels of land for these purposes. Subdivisions nowadays do provide for a variety of sizes of land for houses, flats and town houses. When I say a "variety" of sizes, they usually differ marginally. If the honourable member is asking whether we are proposing to release, for example, 0.5 acre or 1 acre lots for houses, that has not been proposed nor is it intended at this stage.

Note: See also answer to question 1168.

1100 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Having regard to the debate which took place yesterday on the proposed Fish and Fisheries Act, will he indicate whether there will be an increase in the research section of the Fisheries Division to allow the necessary monitoring of the fishing industry over the next few years?

ANSWER

That is a fairly difficult question to answer. Since we accepted fisheries as a responsibility from the Commonwealth, the units of administration itself has doubled in size. It is now a unit of some 42 persons. At this stage, we are looking towards a period of stability whereby the unit may be as effective as possible. Some research is still being undertaken but no large program or concentrated program has been outlined at present.

1001 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will work commence on the sealing of Whitewood and Hillier roads at Howard Springs since the wet is now here and the work is planned for this year? Will the $220,000 budgeted for the sealing of

Whitewood and Hillier roads be sufficient for the job?

ANSWER

I am unable to satisfy the honourable member that the work will be done before the wet season. Tenders will be called in May next year and it is assumed that the estimated amount will be sufficient to cover the work involved.

1102 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that on the inauguration of the Darwin to New Guinea shipping route a number of Northern Territory buffalo were found to have TB? If so, where did the buffalo come from and what steps have been taken to assure our trading partners, especially New Guinea, that this will not happen again?

ANSWER

I ask him to place his question on notice.

1103 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The future of the old Town Hall in Mitchell Street has been on quite a number of citizens' minds for a number of years. Has this matter been raised with the minister and is he able to give us some insight into the future proposals for the old Town Hall?

ANSWER

The Minister for Lands and Housing has approved in principle the reservation of lot 4955 Smith Street, the site of the old Town Hall, for preservation and protection under the Crown Lands Act as a place of historical interest. Executive Council approval is currently being sought and consultant architects, Wilkins, Klemm and Morrison have been commissioned to document the project, call tenders and administer contracts for the demolition and removal of the modern auxiliary structures, the stabilisation of the ruins and the development of the site. Tenders will not be called until after Executive Council approval has been received. Discussions are currently being held with the department for the potential use of the site with a view to submitting options for the future management of the area once the physical conservation has been carried out.

1104 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has there been any undue delay in confirming the appointment of the candidate who successfully appealed against the provisional promotee to the position for Director of Mines and, if so, what is the cause of the delay?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any undue delay but it is a matter that probably is the prerogative of the Chief Minister because it would fall within the jurisdiction of the operation of the Public Service Commissioner's Office.

1105 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Mr Speaker, I redirect my question to the Honourable Chief Minister.

ANSWER

As far as I am aware, there has been no delay. From information from the Public Service Commissioner this morning, I understand that it is unlikely that the Public Service Commissioner will confirm the appointment of any person from the current batch of appointees to the position of Director of Mines. I understand that the position of Director of Mines is to be re-advertised.

1106 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Recently, it was announced that approximately 150 ships from the Taiwanese fishing fleet would be calling into Darwin from time to time in connection with licensing matters and to take on provisions and fuel. Can he inform the House what arrangements have been made to safeguard the supply of fuel to the Northern Territory fishing industry so that it will not suffer from any fuel shortages which might arise from the increased demand?

ANSWER

As a result of the government's introduction of the 200-mile fishing limit, fishing boats such as the Taiwanese will operate in our northern waters and will call into the port of Darwin for goods and supplies. The first 60 ships that are due to come through will consume about 1,800 tonnes of distillate. The 150 ships that are expected to go through the port in the next 3 months will require an additional 4,800 tonnes. I have taken this matter up with the federal Minister for National Development, Mr Newman. I requested of him that, in the event of there being any shortages of distillate, the Northern Territory be given an additional quota to cover the increased consumption of the fishing industry. Most of the difficulties that we have had with the continued supply of petroleum products in the Northern Territory have been caused by a great increase in the business sector and the productivity of the community.

1107 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What is the status of the government's proposal to restore the old uranium mining areas of the Northern Territory and, in particular, when will work resume at Rum Jungle?

ANSWER

The honourable member asked this question before and I think the last advice I gave him was that there was a proposal before the Commonwealth Cabinet for several million dollars to proceed with work and rehabilitation in the Rum Jungle area and in a few other areas in the Territory. As honourable members would be aware, I think an amount of about $300,000 has already been spent. I am not aware of any further commitment by the Commonwealth in this particular area of expenditure. However, I will undertake to find out for the honourable member and advise him at some future date.

1108 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Could he advise the House of the amount of money received for 7 drums of tin concentrate obtained from old battery stands at Mt Wells which was forwarded to Associated Tin Smelters in Sydney?

ANSWER

I do not carry an accounting register of the sales of the Mines Branch products around in my head. I will undertake to obtain the information if the honourable member will provide me with details of the particular drum concentrates involved, the owners and when they were dispatched.

1109 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has a Director of Library Services been appointed yet?

ANSWER

The answer is no. However, we are hopeful that an appointment will be made in the next couple of weeks.

1110 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and INDUSTRY

Has he given any consideration to forming a mercantile marine authority given that people wishing to upgrade their qualifications as merchant seamen in the Northern Territory face an almost impossible task?

ANSWER

No consideration has been given to the formation of such a body. It is a matter we will have to examine. If the honourable member would like to write to me, we will see what we can do about it.

1111 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Have any firm plans been made for night police patrols in the Darwin rural area?

ANSWER

Yes. The police proposal is that partrols will move around the Howard Springs and Humpty Doo areas. I do not have full details but the honourable member may obtain them from the Commissioner of Police or, if she cares to write to me, I will supply her with full details.

1112 Mrs O'NEIL to TREASURER

Is he aware that the price of buffalo meat for pet consumption has doubled in the last 12 months in Darwin from approximately $1.40 to $2.80 for a 2 kg pack? Will the minister have this enormous price increase investigated in the interests of consumers and, presumably, their owners?

ANSWER

I was not aware that such a price increase had taken place. However, the opening up of the European Common Market to our buffalo meat - and the

Northern Territory is one of the few places in the world today where buffaloes are slaughtered for human consumption - has made a tremendous demand on the buffalo resource and no doubt has driven up prices fairly dramatically over recent months. Perhaps that is an excuse for the price rise. However, I will ask the Price Controller to make some inquiries and submit a report to me on the results of recent increases.

1113 Mr VALE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Have there been any results from the study of agriculture, crop development and marketing in the Territory undertaken for the government early this year by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries?

ANSWER

The study group has recently submitted 2 reports covering the horticultural and cropping industries. The reports are being considered by the department and the government will be in a position to outline its plans early next year.

1114 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Have the police compiled a report in relation to the Collia Mine and, in particular, have investigations been made into the whereabouts of the missing partner, Mr Kay?

ANSWER

I cannot be sure that the police have compiled a report into the Collia Mine as such nor can I be sure that the police have compiled a report on the missing partner. I do know that the police have made investigations into the whereabouts of the missing partner and, in the view of the investigating officer, there are suspicious circumstances. Nevertheless, there is apparently no evidence available on which any charges can be laid. There have been reports that Mr Kay has been seen elsewhere on this globe since the date of his alleged disappearance in the Northern Territory.

1115 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

There have been reports in the press of late that industrial solar air-conditioning systems are not receiving financial support from the Northern Territory government while similar systems in other states do receive support. Are these reports factual and, if so, why is no support being provided?

ANSWER

The government receives requests for support from time to time for various types of solar energy applications in the Northern Territory. I guess the honourable member is referring to the application we received from the Telford group who were seeking financial assistance with the establishment of a solar air-conditioning unit on their revamped hotel in Darwin. I think they wanted a similar amount for the one in Alice Springs if that was possible. The consideration that was given to this proposal was quite extensive but there are a couple of points in it that determined that assistance for these projects should not be forthcoming. We are particularly keen to encourage the

use of solar air-conditioning appliances in the Northern Territory where there is a need for an impetus. In this particular case, there was no need for any encouragement on the project because the proposal was identical to a program that had been conducted in Perth. The proposed unit for the Telford Hotel in Darwin was an identical unit to the one that had been tried and proven in Perth. There was no experimental stage to be gone through and there was no doubt about the viability of the project.

Given that our electricity and operating costs are very much dearer than those in Perth and southern cities, the introduction of a solar air-conditioning unit in this case was just that much more attractive. The government had to decide whether it was prudent to spend $60,000 to encourage somebody to install this infrastructure - if the price of electricity continues to rise at its present rate, he would probably get his money back within 5 years - or whether to try to save those resources for other solar applications that would have more practical uses in the community. Perhaps we could introduce solar appliances to sectors of the community where there is not a proven capacity at the moment.

The government is committed to supporting the introduction of solar equipment and hardware in the Northern Territory. We will continue to look at every particular case on its merits. This case was very difficult to justify on financial grounds.

1116 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of the heartening nature of the honourable Minister for Mines and Energy's statement on the economies of solar air-conditioning what programs does the government have to introduce this system into its own building programs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, tonight the energy section of the Department of Mines and Energy, together with the Department of Transport and Works, will canvass the application of solar hardware in Northern Territory buildings. To date, the only suitable structures for the proposed system are the Housing Commission units at Casuarina.

The particular system that has been developed in Western Australia has to be retained in close proximity to the area that is intended to be air-conditioned. It is extremely difficult to situate it on the roof and pump the cool air from the solar unit down into the basement. While it may have an application on the roof of a restaurant, it is unsuitable for very high-rise buildings.

We are considering the introduction of solar refrigerated air-conditioners into some government buildings, particularly a new health centre which is planned for Dripstone. Some time ago, a Japanese firm distributed literature advertising the first solar refrigerated air-conditioner available on the Audstralian market. It was not completely solar; it utilised a small electrical component. However, it was the first commercial product to be offered for sale in Australia. I have taken this matter up with the Directors of Mines and Energy and Health to see whether these appliances could be installed in the new Dripstone centre on a trial basis. If they are suitable, there would be a

considerable cost-saving to the Northern Territory. Again, it is a new principle and, man being as conservative as he is, not many people in the community will rush out and purchase a trial unit at a cost of $1,000 in the hope that it will have a suitable application.

1123 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Since Christmas Day and New Year's Day will fall on a Tuesday this year, will the Northern Territory government follow the lead given by the Victorian and New South Wales governments in proclaiming both the 24th and the 31st of December public holidays?

ANSWER

I have not given this matter any consideration. It certainly has not been drawn to my attention by my advisers and, unfortunately, I have not had a chance yet to look at the days on which Christmas and New Year fall. Since it has been brought to my attention by the Leader of the Opposition, I will seek advice from the Public Service Commissioner and my departmental head and I will attempt to provide some information before the sittings concludes.

1124 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Have orthodontists been engaged in the Alice Springs and Darwin areas as foreshadowed by the minister earlier this year?

ANSWER

The recruitment of an orthodontist to the Alice Springs area has been successful and I had the good fortune to meet the new orthodondist down there during my last visit. He seems to be well supplied with a workload that he did not think would abate in the near future. In the Top End, we have an orthodontist appointed to the Health Department and we are recruiting a second one. We have been very fortunate in securing the services of a second orthodontist. Because of these 2 appointments, it is anticipated that visits to places like Katherine, Tennant Creek and Gove will begin in the new year.

1125 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Will he introduce this sittings a bill to close the loophole in the Liquor Act which mitigates against the conviction of liquor traders for the serving of liquor to under-age persons as was reported on After Eight?

ANSWER

I did not hear After Eight so I cannot comment on what was said. We propose to introduce during these sittings about 20 amendments to the Liquor Act which result from recommendations of the Liquor Commission. They relate particularly to the administrative side of the commission's activities rather than policy. With regard to the particular point that the honourable member raises, I will have to check and let her know.

1126 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the government any plans for extending the reticulated water supply to the rural area because of the great expense incurred by block owners in sinking individual bores?

ANSWER

There are no immediate plans to extend the water facilities to persons on rural blocks. The matter will be reassessed in the light of regional plans that will be presented to the Minister for Lands and Housing in due course. I would warn that, at that time, there would be some cost recovery aspects to be taken into account and it may not be as clearcut as first thought.

1127 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it his department's intention to conduct in-service training courses for immigrant teachers to improve their English language skills?

ANSWER

I undertake to provide the honourable member with the answer to that question later in the sitting. I have no direct knowledge of a specific program to improve the English language capabilities of migrant teachers. As the honourable member would be aware, a wide range of in-service programs are constantly going on and one would assume that, if there was an identifiable need in that area, that would be catered for. Nonetheless, I will seek a specific answer for the honourable member.

1128 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has a decision been made on the siting of a new motor vehicle registry office at Nhulunbuy and, if so, when will the branch be opened?

ANSWER

The proposed motor vehicle registry will be sited within the existing space at the Transport and Works depot at Lot 42. The existing arrangements will continue in the short term. The police department will continue to carry out the testing function and the clerical function will be carried out by a Transport and Works officer. Additional office accommodation is currently being provided at Lot 42 and will be completed in early 1980. This additional accommodation will house the existing clerk and the motor vehicle tester. The tester will be appointed now and will be in Nhulunbuy some time in January.

1129 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

A few years ago the Darwin Sailing Club and the Darwin Trailer Boat Club applied for extra land adjacent to their existing leases for the purpose of parking their boats. A decision on this matter was deferred until after the foreshore environmental study was completed. This has been completed for approximately 12 months. When can these clubs expect a definite answer to their application?

ANSWER

I too would certainly seek an early resolution to the question of additional areas to be used by clubs like the Sailing Club for parking boats and for car parking. As the honourable member for Fannie Bay said, the foreshore management study has been completed. Unfortunately, such studies often lead to others. There has been a recent study on all foreshore areas of Darwin with a view to assessing the suitability

of various sites for a marina which a number of parties have proposed should be established. The Vesteys Beach area is one of the areas which has been examined. Until such time as a number of decisions have been made on such matters, it is not really proper that the Darwin Sailing Club or others should be allocated specific land for the parking of cars and boats. In the meantime, I understand that there has been a fairly liberal attitude taken towards the Darwin Sailing Club and its stacking or storing of boats on what is virtually a public reserve. They will not be harassed in any way by inspectors until such time as a satisfactory resolution can be found.

1130 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware of a letter from the Darwin Primary School Parents, Teachers and Friends Association to the Director of Education asking about the provision of school furniture, fire protection, detection equipment and a public address system? If so, what action will he take to ensure that these matters are treated as a matter of urgency?

ANSWER

The matters referred to by the honourable member for Port Darwin have already been treated as matters of urgency. I understand that, a couple of years ago, there was a rather extraordinary foul up in that the furniture purchased for Darwin Primary School apparently went elsewhere. There is nothing to be benefitted by canvassing that any further.

I understand that the question of furniture has now been largely overcome by a mutual arrangement between 2 principals. The Principal of Darwin Primary School is one of these people and is satisfied by the arrangement. Certainly, the department has been in constant communication on this issue with the Principal of Darwin Primary School.

In respect to the question of fire alarms and a public address system, the public address system contract has now been let. I understand that the Department of Transport and Works are looking after that particular system which will have the dual purpose of fire alert.

I undertake to visit Darwin Primary School probably next Monday. If the honourable member will meet me at the airport, I will go straight to Darwin Primary School and have a look at the problems first hand. My understanding is that the design of the building is such that making an exit in the event of a fire emergency is very easy indeed. The main problem is to alert staff and students to the presence of the fire as early as possible. By combining the fire alert facilities with the public address system, we hope to overcome any problems which may exist at the moment.

1131 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is the minister yet in a position to supply me with an answer to question 201 which I asked on 28 November 1978? This concerns a lease agreement between V.B. Perkins and the Northern Territory Port Authority? Can the minister inform me whether a lease agreement has been completed and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

I am not in a position to provide that information at the present time.

1132 Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he advise whether certain organisations and buildings within the Northern Territory will now be charged at domestic rather than commercial electricity rates and whether churches are included in those organisations?

ANSWER

There was an announcement several months ago to the effect that Cabinet has agreed that electricity rates for churches were to be charged at the domestic rate rather than at the commercial rate. It was Cabinet's view that this would be a big help to the churches concerned. Cabinet also agreed to charge people who run boarding houses, accommodation quarters, banks and similar institutions at the domestic rate rather than at the industrial rate. An anomaly existed in the regulations to the Electricity Commission Act that made it compulsory for the commission to charge the commercial rate for electricity for accommodation that was provided adjacent to premises in which a business was operating. It seemed to be an unreasonable burden to place on people who ran institutions of this type and who provided a great deal of accommodation in the Northern Territory community generally. Where any organisation has accommodation adjacent to its business premises, it may now have that metered at the residential rate.

Cabinet is also in the process of giving consideration to providing domestic power rates for caravan parks. We have a difficult situation in the Northern Territory in that caravan parks, which normally provide a service to the touring public, are often used as permanent home sites for people who cannot obtain accommodation or land in the wider community. We are looking at the possibility of extending this concession to caravan park operations because so many of the residents in those parks are permanent dwellers who, if they had the opportunity, would move into the wider community where they could obtain power at residential rates. I would be happy to make a further statement on that in the future.

1133 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT AND WORKS

What action has been taken by the Primary Industry Division on the interim report on agricultural and horticultural development compiled by Queensland consultants to the Northern Territory government?

Mr SPEAKER: I believe that was answered yesterday.

1134 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What steps must be taken to see that comment is received from as broad a spectrum as possible before the new Mining Bill is debated?

ANSWER

The honourable member would recall from the text of the second-reading

speech that it is the government's intention to include as many people and organisations as possible in the consideration of the new mining legislation. Times have changed dramatically since the pick and shovel days. Because mining has such an impact on so many areas of the community and it will become more important by the year 2000 when society will be that much more sophisticated, it is important that everybody should have an opportunity to consider the legislation. Copies of the legislation and related material have been sent to 142 mining companies throughout Australia, most of whom are active in or have an involvement with the Northern Territory in some way. The legislation has been sent to Commonwealth ministers and departments and all relevant state government departments for their comments. In the Northern Territory, copies have been sent to the Environment Council, the Aboriginal Land Councils, the Heritage Commission and other organisations. We are looking forward to receiving their comments.

One interesting thing that has come out of the circulation of the bill was that we received an approach from AMIC through the local chapter of the Chamber of Mines to hold a forum in a southern city because most mining company people would be able to attend. Discussion could take place on the actual mechanics and land administration side of the legislation because they are so important to everybody on a day to day basis. That seemed to me to be a very practical suggestion. I have informed the Chamber of Mines that, if they organise it, we will make the staff available to participate in the workshop. I am sure that an exercise like this will benefit the community as a whole.

1135 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can the minister advise me on the progress of the proposed lake at Alice Springs?

ANSWER

The information that the honourable member requests is not available to me at this stage. However, I am led to believe that drilling, silt testing and early investigations have proved quite satisfactory. This would enable the government to construct a lake just above the old telegraph station. The cost of such a venture would be in the order of $2m which would be quite an investment. I think that the results of further studies should be available early next year.

1136 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has a suitable position in the city yet been found for the Darwin public library?

ANSWER

This particular question has been asked of me several times in the House. At this stage, I am still unable to confirm that the library services have secured premises within the city boundaries for the operation of the Darwin library. However, I hope that some sucessful negotiations might be held later this week or early next week in relation to the selection of a location in the Smith Street Mall.

1137 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will he confirm that the hobby room and other areas at Berrimah prison which were designed for the rehabilitation and recreation of prisoners are in fact being used to accommodate prisoners because of an excess in numbers?

ANSWER

I received a report several weeks ago confirming that. However, I am not sure of the current position. I will find out and supply her with that information later in this sittings.

1138 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the government any future plans for the sealing of other roads in the rural area of Darwin?

ANSWER

Obviously, there will be further developments in the sealing of roads as time goes on. We are studying this with the help of consultants who are in that area at present. A report should be available by January next year which should provide an analysis of the existing road networks and proposals for areas which we should look at. The priorities of course for the sealing of roads in this area will be dependent on this further information and the availability of funds in the budget.

1139 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Northern Territory government held discussions with the Australian Electoral Office over the conduct of the next Legislative Assembly elections? If so, can he confirm that the Australian Electoral Office will be responsible for the conduct of the next Assembly election?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government has been holding discussions with the Australian Electoral Office for some 12 months regarding arrangements for the conduct of Northern Territory elections to be held in the future. On one occasion whilst I was in Canberra, in company with Northern Territory government officials, I paid a courtesy call on Electoral Officer and senior members of his staff. There was consideration being given at one time for the appointment of a Northern Territory government official as Chief Electoral Officer under the Northern Territory Elections Act. However, I understand that the attitude of the Australian Electoral Office was that, if it was to handle the conduct of Northern Territory elections, then it required an officer of the Australian Electoral Office to be appointed as Chief Electoral Officer rather than do the work on an agency basis. Arrangements are virtually in the process of finalisation - although it may take a couple of months more - for an officer from the Australian Electoral Office to be appointed Chief Electoral Officer of the Northern Territory. When the Electoral Bill is assented to, I would expect that staff of the Australian Electoral Office will be responsible for the conduct of future Northern Territory elections.

1140 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he indicate whether the offer of a health team to be sent to East Timor has been accepted by the authorities?

ANSWER

The offer by the Northern Territory government to provide a team of health officials to go to East Timor was made about 10 days ago by the Chief Minister to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in Canberra. To my knowledge, there has not been any response to the offer. When there is, the details will be made available to the House.

1141 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Several areas in the Port Darwin area are still to be connected to the main sewerage system. These areas include Myilly Terrace, Carey Street and also Temira Crescent. Can he inform me when the main sewerage system will be extended to include these areas?

ANSWER

I understand that the items to which the member for Port Darwin refers are on the 1979-80 capital works program. The work is due to go to tender in June 1980.

1142 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The Elizabeth River people have been placed in an invidious position

regarding access to blocks in stage 1 and stage 2 of the subdivision done under Commonwealth requirements. Can the minister inform me of the position of the proposed standard of roads for stage 3 of the subdivision?

ANSWER

There certainly has been a great deal of difficulty experienced by persons in that area. A subdivision was well under way in June 1978 when legislation was passed through this House which effectively stopped all subdivisions on freehold land in the Northern Territory until such time as they had approval. In order to obtain aproval, developers had to provide at least an adequate access to each parcel being subdivided. In the Elizabeth River area, quite a number of people had purchased land and, while some work was done on roads, the roads were never accepted by the Department of Transport and Works as roads that it would maintain. There were other difficulties associated with a particular crossing over the Elizabeth River. The legislation effectively prevented further subdivisions. Fortunately, in this particular situation, the developer still had a large parcel of land in stage 3 which he proposed to complete and the government was able to withhold approval for the completion of stage 3 until such time as roadworks had been brought up to a certain standard and until a causeway over the upper reaches of the Elizabeth River had been built. I have had a number of meetings with the developer and we have reached an agreement on the construction of a causeway over the upper reaches of the Elizabeth River and some associated roadworks. I feel that there is an end in sight, fortunately, for the people who were victims of the inefficient legislation which was in operation in the Territory until last year when I moved in this House that we should pass urgent legislation absolutely prohibiting further subdivisions without approval. I believe that the case before us is a reinforcement that that action was indeed necessary and has served its purpose.

1143 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the government recently given an undertaking to residents in the Elizabeth River Estate that a causeway will be built over the Elizabeth River and this causeway will be paid for by the government? If so, what is the estimated cost of this structure and when is it likely to be constructed?

ANSWER

In reply to the previous question, I mentioned I had a number of meetings with the director of the company concerned about whose responsibility it was to construct a crossing over the upper reaches of the Elizabeth River having regard to the fact that it will service quite a number of blocks belonging to this particular developer which he proposes to develop. It will also service quite a large number of blocks that he has already sold - land which was legally subdivided but which did not have adequate access. Those persons are now the responsibility of the government in a strict sense. The causeway will also service future subdivisions in the area. Thus, there are a number of people who will benefit from that particular causeway. I have given an undertaking to a number of people in the area that the government will build the causeway. The estimated cost is $54,000 - that is a preliminary estimate - and the developer has given me a verbal undertaking, which I am seeking to

clarify in writing, that he will contribute $44,000 towards the building of that crossing. The government will be contributing the remainder.

1144 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Does the government intend to establish a Northern Territory Teaching Service on 1 January as planned and, if not, when will the government establish such a service?

ANSWER

In answering the question, I might take some liberties with the terms in which it was couched. I would assume that the honourable member's question was promoted by an ABC press report yesterday in which the Teachers Federation was reported to have said that, unless a firm proposal is forthcoming from the government by 1 July next year, it will take industrial action. I must say that I am very disappointed that the Teachers Federation would take out on children what they see as a real or imagined frustration between themselves and the government. Indeed, if one is to canvass this question properly, one must ask why the Teachers Federation is suddenly so anxious to have a Northern Territory teaching service when it has always been the Northern Territory Teaching Federation's policy to continue with the CTS. One can only assume that the working party report envisages terms and conditions of employment way beyond that which they presently enjoy. I suppose that that is a subject for another day.

The Teachers Federation has been well aware that the report on the establishment of a Northern Territory teaching service has been widely circulated in the community over the last months. They are also well aware that the time for expiry of submissions from the public was 16 November and we already have threats of industrial action. Mr Speaker, let me say that that sort of statement is a total misrepresentation of the facts. As I have said in this Assembly, the federation has been asked to reconvene the working party to study the submissions from the public. I have also indicated previously that, to the best of my knowledge, they have declined to do so. At the moment, we are having a valuation done by the department and by various other interested departments such as Treasury in relation to the financial implications of the report. The Public Service Commissioner is studying the administration of the type of system envisaged. When all of that is collected, it will be condensed into a paper for Cabinet's consideration as soon as possible.

I want to see the establishment of a Northern Territory teaching service by July 1 next year and not just a proposal. Let me reiterate that no threat of any kind is going to remove this government's commitment to the widest possible consultation of the public in matters concerning education.

1145 Mr BALLANTYNE to CHIEF MINISTER

This relates to the Employment (Leave of Absence) Bill inquiry. Can the Chief Minister tell me what stage the inquiry has reached and whether a date has been set for its completion?

ANSWER

Certain correspondence has been dispatched to the gentleman whom we

proposed to appoint as the person to conduct the inquiry. That person has been so appointed by the Executive Council. I am not aware when the retired Judge from the Conciliation Arbitration Commission will come to the Northern Territory. I can ascertain that information for the honourable member before the conclusion of this sittings.

1146 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What arrangements are being made for school children attending Anula and Wulagi schools to attend swimming classes at Casuarina swimming pool now that funding for this specific purpose has been discontinued?

ANSWER

Before I answer the question, a little bit of history is necessary. Funding for swimming and road safety programs is an extension of benefits which flowed from the cyclone, if indeed benefits did flow from the cyclone. This is a benefit which no other school children in the Northern Territory have ever received. It was a special allowance for excursions originally made to schools in Darwin because of their destroyed or semi-destroyed state. It was a special disability grant which was only applied to Darwin children as a result of the cyclone. On my understanding, as the building settled down and those purposes were no longer relevant, the special allocation was never terminated. These funds were channelled - and quite rightly; I am not criticising it - into specific programs of swimming training and road safety training both of which are highly desirable activities. However, there is a limit to the amount of money available for every endeavour. I would like to see funds available for pools and road safety cycle tracks for children everywhere in the Northern Territory. Nonetheless, this is quite impossible in the present economic circumstances.

To answer the question specifically, the general school-based funding for the year has been seriously eroded in Darwin schools because they anticipated that this special fund would continue. As a result, the general one-line funding which covers 4 areas in school-based funding is now somewhat depleted as a result of the continuation of these programs which were not specifically funded this year. In light of that, I have asked the department to find the money to reinstate those programs at least for the balance of this year. To pick up that program for less than half the year for Darwin alone will cost between $15,000 and $20,000. It gives some idea of the cost of bussing. If you were to amplify that right throughout the Territory, it would give you some idea of the staggering cost of those sort of excursions.

1147 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the fact that 6 out of the 19 Legislative Assembly seats, as at 19 October 1979, were outside the 20% tolerance of electorates, will the Chief Minister give an assurance that a redistribution of all electorates in the Territory will be carried out before the next Assembly election?

ANSWER

I am not at present aware of the figures for the various Legislative

Assembly seats but, before any assurance can be given as to whether a redistribution will be effected, certain factors would have to become known. Amongst those factors would be whether the Electoral Office has embarked on a campaign to register voters which has taken place only in certain seats and not in others as yet and other factors so that a true picture of the position can be ascertained. For instance, I am aware in my own electorate that there are many persons whose names are on the roll but who have moved out of the electorate and, of course, there is the continual registration of new electors. Whilst the Leader of the Opposition may well be quoting figures which are available at the Electoral Office at the present time, perhaps further examination of these figures and some effort by the Electoral Office to establish the true position in all the electorates may be necessary before a decision on a redistribution can be taken.

1148 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What steps is he taking to minimise the risk of introduction of exotic disease both human and animal, into the Northern Territory as the result of recent arrangements whereby large numbers of Taiwanese fishing boats are to be based in Darwin?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Health Department role is tied up with the federal Department of Health's quarantine services. We act in cooperation with and as an agent for the federal department in these matters. My understanding is that both the federal and local departments have taken particular measures to ensure that plant and animal species do not come ashore from the boats. There has been a great deal of comment in the press about the fact that there are animals and birds, particularly fowls, on these boats. The people involved have advised me that that is not in fact the case. The particular concern is with rodents which are likely to come ashore from boats that come to Darwin. The quarantine people board these vessels, confiscate any food, meat or animals that happen to be on board and fumigate the boat for any other things that are likely to bring disease into Australia. It is interesting to note that the quarantine people have not recorded, to my knowledge, any fowls or animals coming ashore in Darwin. One other interesting point that was brought to my notice some time ago was that most of the boats that have come to Darwin in the last 12 months have had a fumigation certificate which they received in their port of disembarkation. It is quite obvious that the people on these boats were expecting quarantine investigators to be quite strict with them and they have taken the precaution, in the first place, of having their boats fumigated to make their passage a little easier.

1149 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is it true that 7 senior officers of the Mines Branch at either E4 or E5 level have resigned from the branch since 1 July.

ANSWER

I do not have any details on the number of officers that have departed from the Mines Branch at that level. I ask him to place the question on notice.

1150 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why was the Darwin rural area, including Berrimah, given only $80,000 for the re-gravelling of rural roads out of what I understand is a total allocation of $11.5m for repairs and maintenance in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I ask her to place the question on notice.

1151 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the current proposal by his department for the establishment of a sewerage farm in the Alice Springs area?

ANSWER

It is well known that there is no current proposal for a sewage farm at Alice Springs. We did have a farm on the program at an earlier time but the council objected to that through the town planning processes and we withdrew our proposition. I understand that discussions are still taking place between the Alice Springs corporation and senior officers of the Department of Transport and Works. If a sewerage farm is proposed at a later time, we will support it.

1152 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

The last annual report received from the former Mines Branch was for the financial year 1968-69. Is it intended to re-institute the publication of annual reports on Territory mining?

ANSWER

The short answer is yes and I believe the first one is being printed now.

1153 D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In view of the extensive redevelopment which has taken place over recent months in the Smith Street Mall, what is the future use of the former government tourist office site and when is it expected that this site will be developed?

ANSWER

The future use of the site in question is still under consideration by the government. At the moment, it is our intention that the site will be used for the Darwin operations of the Northern Territory Tourist Board which will shortly become the Tourist Commission. The centre of the mall will be an ideal spot for that purpose. However, until such time as the car parking situation in the central business district is resolved, it is difficult to ascertain the size of buildings to go on particular sites. This is very relevant to that site. There is no specific public car park near the site and it is an unusual site in that it does not back on to West lane. In fact, there is a small parcel of land at the rear of the block which completely isolates it at the present time. Technically speaking, except from the mall, there is no

access whatsoever which is fine for pedestrians but not for other purposes. There are a number of problems to be resolved in relation to the block and its future development. I hope that they are resolved in the near future. The provisions of multi-storey car parking facilities in Darwin will also help to clarify all the issues.

1154 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will he confirm that doctors on duty at Darwin Hospital have been instructed to advise patients to seek treatment from private practitioners rather than from the hospital outpatients department and was this decision made as a result of concern expressed by private practitioners about competition from Health Department services?

ANSWER

I have no knowledge of the instruction to which the honourable member for Fannie Bay has alluded. I ask the honourable member to provide cases, instances and the names of people involved because I would like to follow the matter up.

1155 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he inform the House of the electricity needs for a uranium enrichment plant and can he indicate the cost of such a plant?

ANSWER

The honourable member has raised a question that requires a great deal of detail to answer. I would prefer that he put it on notice because the size of an enrichment plant governs any demands for power. If the honourable member has any particular size of unit in mind, I would be happy to provide information for him.

1156 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why does the Motor Vehicle Registry no longer place on car registration stickers the date of expiry of registration, the car engine number nor any other means of identification linking the sticker to the car?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place that question on notice.

1158 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is his department responsible for youth employment programs? If so, what initiatives are being taken this year to provide jobs for 962 unemployed young people in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

My department is not responsible for any youth employment programs. However, my department has had several discussions with the Commonwealth Department of Employment in an effort to have it continue the various programs which it operates in the Northern Territory such as the EPY course which is conducted by the Darwin Community College.

I believe that the Chief Minister will make a full statement on the unemployment problem in the Northern Territory during this sittings.

1159 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

If Katherine is the most racist town in Australia, as claimed last week by the honourable member for Victoria River, what does the Chief Minister propose to do about it?

ANSWER

I recall the honourable member for Victoria River saying that Katherine was the most racist town in Australia but I for one do not accept such a statement. I believe that we certainly have our problems in the Northern Territory. People have problems everywhere in Australia. There are problems between people of all sorts of ethnic groups right around this country and we must all work together to solve the various problems. At the present time, there is no doubt that, in some circumstances, unemployment exacerbates problems. Indeed, problems often occur because people do not have enough to occupy themselves either physically or mentally. I certainly do not accept the statement that Katherine is the most racist town in Australia. I believe that, if the honourable member reflected on that statement, he would probably seek to qualify it.

1160 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has the Marriage Guidance Council been forced to close its Alice Springs office due to lack of funds and is the closure of the Gove office imminent for the same reason? Will the minister review his recent decision not to approve additional funding so that the work of this worthwhile organisation can continue?

ANSWER

I will advise the member at a later hour.

1161 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What is the current position regarding people in the rural areas paying bonds or levies and undertaking to use the minimum amount of electricity before their blocks are connected?

ANSWER

The previous regime in the Northern Territory under the Commonwealth government had a system of minimum accounts or bonds that people were required to enter into to enable them to obtain electricity on their blocks. While it served a very useful purpose, the Electricity Commission felt that it could come up with a better arrangement to provide a rural electrification scheme that would be much more widespread than the previous program. My understanding is that, where previous consumers had an agreement or contract with the government for the minimum sale of electricity, they could enter into a new agreement with NTEC or they could continue with the present scheme. I understand that only one person has opted to change at this stage.

1162 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the working party established to report on the examination and development of legislation to control the ingredients of stockfeed, including antibiotics, yet reported to the minister and, if not, when is it likely that the report will be forwarded?

ANSWER

We did promise that the report would be completed by the end of this year but I have not seen it as yet. I will let the honourable member know in due course.

1163 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is the Darwin Planning Authority continuing to waive parking requirements under section 38B?

ANSWER

There has been some difficulty in Darwin with regard to planning and building approvals. Some discussion ensued yesterday in this House on this matter. The Planning Authority has deferred or declined to make a decision on at least 2 applications before it to waive the provision of car parking for developments in the central business district in Darwin pending an agreement with the Northern Territory government on a solution to the financial problems of establishing permanent multi-storey car parks in Darwin. As I mentioned earlier during these sittings, a submission on this matter is about to go to Cabinet for decision. Until such time as the Planning Authority and the city council can be assured that there is a solution in sight, I understand that they are taking the attitude that they will not waive further car parking provisions in the central business district. This is causing some problems to developers at present.

1164 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What action is being taken by the government to reform the law of rape?

ANSWER

This is an interesting question because I may have mentioned this matter in this House earlier. If I have not, I regret that I have not done so. It is certainly fairly common knowledge that the government

is undertaking a reform of the whole of the criminal law, not just the law in relation to rape. That well-known Darwin newspaper, that unbiased organ of journalistic freedom, the Darwin Star, carried a story some months ago to the effect that the Chief Minister had appointed one of his cronies as a consultant to assist the government in carrying out its reform of the criminal law. In fact, the position is that, quite some time ago, the Department of Law, the Solicitor-General, the Crown Prosecutor and the Crown Counsel, together with a Mr Connolly, a very senior member of the Queensland bar, engaged in a mammoth study of the Northern Territory's criminal law which is scattered through various pieces of legislation, principally in the Criminal Law Consolidation Act.

After lengthy consultations with the judges of the Northern Territory Supreme Court, the Law Society and other interested parties, Mr Connolly embarked on the codification of the Northern Territory's criminal law because it was believed, as a matter of policy, that it was probably best that there should be a complete criminal code produced. Because Queensland was the leading code state, it was decided that a Queensland counsel should be employed. This first draft code has in fact been produced and was some months ago sent to the judges of the Supreme Court for their comment. At present, I understand we are still awaiting those comments. I would not like to infer any criticism of those judges by saying that they have had the document for 4 months or 3 months because there are 4 volumes of the proposed code and I myself have only had time to read one as yet. It is something that I do not think we should rush into; it is something that should be given careful consideration. After the judges have made their comments and these have been considered, the legal profession, the civil liberties council and various other groups must be given their opportunity to comment. Finally, I hope it will result in the production of a bill that can be introduced into this House some time next year. I believe it would need to go over probably at least 3 sittings so that everyone in the Territory and indeed around Australia may examine it if they so wish. I might remark that our new code includes the English Theft Act provisions which are quite an innovation. I believe that criminologists, legal people and ordinary people right around this country will want to pass comments on this bill. I do not think that we should be in a hurry but I expect that this House will see it next year.

1165 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the boat ramp at the town beach in Nhulunbuy be available to the public?

ANSWER

Work has proceeded on design, access roads and the parking facilities. Clearances are being obtained from the Northern Land Council and we expect to complete the work by the middle of next year.

1166 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When is it expected that the Aboriginal housing agreement, which is to be entered into with the Commonwealth government, will be signed?

ANSWER

I expect that it will be signed very shortly. The document has been going back and forth between my office and the office of the federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs for some time to incorporate minor changes. It is presently in his hands; I do not have the final draft of the document. I cannot give a specific time but I expect that it will be signed shortly.

1167 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is there a new or revised town plan for Alice Springs? If so, when will it be available for public inspection?

ANSWER

A new draft town plan has been completed for Alice Springs. It has ourrently been given to the Alice Springs corporation and a limited number of other persons for their comments prior to going on formal public display. I do not have a specific time for that display. It must first go before the Alice Springs Town Planning Authority for its consideration and possible amendment.

1168 Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

This is a follow up to a question I asked last week about the availability of residential land in Alice Springs. Can he advise which blocks would be made available during the next 3 years and in which areas they will be made available?

ANSWER

I have to apologise to the House and to the honourable member on this matter. The information I provided to question 1099 for the honourable member for Alice Springs, where it quoted a number of figures for Alice Springs, was incorrect. It was my own fault because I wrongly deciphered figures that were provided to me. I would like now to correct the record. In terms of production of house lots in Alice Springs, in 1980-81, there will be 40 lots in Araluen, 50 lots in Sadadeen, 20 lots in Mt John, 40 lots at Spenser Hill - a total of 150 lots. In 1981-82, the expected turn-off is 50 lots in Araluen, 150 lots in Sadadeen, 60 lots in Mt John, 40 lots at Spenser Hill - a total of 300. The provision for units of accommodation in the multi-density area - home units and flats - in 1980-81, there is expected to be 60 for the Mt John and Sadadeen area and 70 for 1981-82.

1169 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

My question is in relation to an answer I received to a question last week. In view of the fact that the Mining Warden has ruled that he connot adjudicate in the matter of the Collia Mine dispute, what circumstances have changed to allow that re-adjudication to take place and when will it take place?

ANSWER

I believe that the parties have asked that they be joined together under another section of the act - I think it is section 180 - to appear before the Warden to have the matter reconsidered.

1170 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Does the Northern Territory Housing Commission have a pool of emergency accommodation in Darwin for quick allocation to persons in necessitous circumstances and, if so, what is the kind and approximate size of this pool in terms of the number of households that could be accommodated?

ANSWER

As I understand the system, the Housing commission does not keep a specific pool of houses set aside for emergency allocation. Because of the size of its house turn-off, house acceptance from contractors and houses handed back to the Housing Commission by tenants vacating, it has a constant supply of houses available for reallocation. The Housing Commission has a system whereby persons can make application to bypass the Housing Commission waiting list and seek emergency accommodation. At present, it receives some 30 applications a month for emergency accommodation. These are scrutinised very carefully because every person who is able to obtain accommodation forthwith is, in fact, disadvantaging hundreds of people who have been on the waiting list for a long time and who may be paying a large percentage of their income for private accommodation. At present, only 4 emergency allocations per month are made out of the 30-odd applications. I understand a separate pool of houses is not kept vacant waiting for an agreement to house people in emergencies.

1171 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

The Stuart Highway north of Alice Springs to the foothills has been reconstructed recently and a portion of that road is now open. Can the minister advise when the whole of the newly reconstructed highway will be open to traffic?

ANSWER

This is the road that Favaro went broke on by under-tendering for the job which it could not complete. It was taken over by the Department of Transport and Works. In an effort to show the department's spirit and its skill in road work, it completed the road in very good time and not very far outside the budgeted allocation. The road itself is driveable at this stage. We are waiting for the Charles River crossing to be completed. I understand that that is due for completion in February and the honourable member may even have the pleasure of opening it if he twists my arm.

1172 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When the new fire station is built at Parap, will the Daly Street fire station continue to service the city area?

ANSWER

I do not know that all the processes have been completed to allow the fire station to be built at Parap. On the assumption that the fire station

may be built at Parap, I would suggest that the activities of the Daly Street fire station would be reduced somewhat and that the Parap fire station would provide all the activities that one would associate with a fire headquarters. If the honourable member would like to write to me or perhaps place the question on notice, she will receive more information.

1173 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

If there are subsequent connections of blocks to reticulated electricity before the lapse of the bond or levy do these later block owners have to pay a proportionate bond or levy and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

I ask that the question be placed on notice.

1174 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

When is it likely that people affected by the collapse of the Northumberland Insurance Company will be afforded some relief? Can he indicate any further developments since his last answer.

ANSWER

I cannot indicate any further developments since my last answer. After the Northern Territory Cabinet approved a scheme, the Australian government, which had resolutely resisted any contribution up to that stage, suddenly came good with an offer, the details of which I cannot recall. I thought the Department of Law would sort it out. I will certainly ascertain the present position in order to try to resolve this matter.

1175 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Last year considerable publicity was given to the worrying problem of syphilis in the rural areas. At that time, the Department of Health said that a control program was under way. Is he able to indicate how that program is progressing?

ANSWER

The Department of Health has programs of public health control continuing throughout the Territory. The attack that the department has made on the VD problem in the Territory is meeting with some success. There has been a 25% reduction in the notifications of syphilis in the last year.

1176 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware of a report in yesterday's NT News that the tourist industry in the Top End is in jeopardy? If so, is it a fact that the industry is being jeopardised by inadequate funding and a lack of certain facilities in the Top End?

ANSWER

It sounds like a Dorothy Dix question. I certainly saw the article and

went to the trouble of cutting it out. I thought that the report of the Chairman of the Darwin Regional Tourist Promotion Association lacked government information and that perhaps I should seek to hold a symposium to bring people like the chairman up to date on various tourist matters. I refute 99½% of what was said in the article and I assume that it is an accurate publication of the initial press statement. The fact is that something like $12 to $13m is being spent on tourism through other departments in the current budget. The operational budget supports tourist bureaus in the south and provides for a reasonable promotional campaign to have people visit the Northern Territory. The article indicated that a director of tourism was to be appointed. I would suggest that, if the act had been read, it would have been noted that the position is a chairman/general manager. It said that the 2-year job tenure was insufficient for any person to construct and implement a cohesive plan to market the Territory's tourist attractions. The 2-year term applies to the part-time tourist commissioners and also to those people who will be appointed to the Tourism Advisory Council.

1177 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will additional caravan parks be provided in the near future?

ANSWER

There is quite a lot of interest in this matter. We have applications from developers seeking about 5 sites. Most of them have expressed interest in a site within reasonable proximity of the foreshore. The Darwin Planning Authority has been contemplating proposals put to it for display of a rezoning at Brinkin to incorporate the additional areas that the government has undertaken to allocate to the Darwin Community College and for residential and other purposes. I specifically asked that my department put to the Planning Authority the subject of the provision of a caravan park at Brinkin and left it to the Planning Authority and the department to decide what would be the most suitable site.

I was not actually directing that a caravan park be put there but that the proposal be displayed. I understand the planning authority has rejected the concept of a caravan park being displayed for Brinkin. As a result of that information which only came to hand this morning, I will seek a report on why such a display has been rejected. It has been my philosophy that, whilst the Planning Authority is quite rightly a very independent board, I believe that the government does have some rights to have its proposals put on display to test public reaction. It seems that the Planning Authority has decided - although I have not been advised of this formally - not to put the caravan park in the plan for display.

I understand it has approved a display of a rezoning for a caravan park at Coconut Grove which will provide quite a number of caravan sites. There are other applications in the system which will probably receive a great deal of objection. An applicant has applied again for a caravan park site on the vacant crown land on the old golf course site this side of East Point. I am not sure whether the Planning Authority will choose to exhibit such a plan again because this area has a history of exhibition uses being rejected. I do share the honourable member's concern. With an increasingly mobile population in Australia, increasing leisure time and matters such as the sealing of

the South Road for which an undertaking has been given by the South Australian Liberal government, I believe we should be developing more caravan parks throughout the Northern Territory and they should be of the highest possible standard to assist our tourist industry.

1178 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Concerning the joint Sumital Taiyo fisheries investigation to be carried out in Northern Territory waters, could he advise who is providing the surveillance machinery available to the authorities to verify the operation of the joint fishing research as he indicated in his speech last Tuesday?

ANSWER

I would need to clarify one point. I am not too sure of the word "surveillance". The honourable member might mean "observer".

Mrs LAWRIE: I quote directly from his speech: "...comprehensive and regular radio contact particularly in relation to navigational details so that surveillance machinery available to authorities can be used to verify they are indeed operating in accordance with prior arrangements made with us ...". Who is providing that surveillance machinery?

Mr STEELE: I understand that it is under the administration of the federal Department of Transport. There is a sub-unit of administration that looks after coastal surveillance right across the north. I understand that full reporting procedures have to be entered into, that the vessels have to be numbered or marked in a certain way and that they are limited to so many vessels. I understand also that, in respect of the Taiwanese, for example, there is some self-discipline. If the rules are broken in any way, the boat is sent back to Taiwan and another is sent out. It is probably a little early to say just how effective the surveillance will be but, if it is not effective, we will be the first to criticise it.

1179 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What does the Northern Territory government intend to do with the McMinns bore field?

ANSWER

We propose to rehabilitate and extend it.

1180 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the government's failure to utilise funds for the education of unemployed youth in 1978-79 when only $14,000 of a $60,000 Commonwealth grant was spent, can the minister assure the House that funds made available for this purpose in 1979-80 will be spent?

ANSWER

I understand that the honourable gentleman's information on the spending of the federal government allocations last year is correct. I do recall receiving some advice as to why that occurred and I will

certainly check that out and let him know what my formal advice is. When I found out about it, I was extremely annoyed. I can assure the House that it will never happen again.

1181 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In reply to a question on notice from the member for Victoria River the Minister stated: "The location of the connector road between Fitzer Drive and the Ludmilla Creek has been chosen to provide an adequate buffer between Ludmilla north residents and the expected traffic". Can he explain why it was seen necessary to provide such a buffer for the residents in his electorate and not for the residents of Fannie Bay where the level of traffic is expected to be even higher?

ANSWER

I would have assumed that the whole matter was fairly self-explanatory. If you go through a built-up area, obviously there will be houses on both sides of the road. The government has seen an opportunity to provide a buffer to some people living in this area and that has been provided. I think it is very simple.

1182 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What assistance is offered by the Northern Territory Housing Commission to community organisations for the provision of non-residential premises?

ANSWER

I am taxing my memory but I do not recall that the Housing Commission has assisted any organisation with non-residential accommodation. If the honourable member would care to place the question on notice or write to me, I could clarify it for her.

1185 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of the lack of an appeal provision in the Liquor Act against decisions of the Liquor Commission, is the government considering the insertion of such a provision?

ANSWER

Not at this stage.

1186 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Following on his successful negotiations with the Minister for Post and Telecommunications resulting in a direct broadcast of the Melbourne Cup, has he had any negotiations with the federal minister concerning the forthcoming Australian test cricket matches and, if so, what was the result of those negotiations?

ANSWER

It was interesting to hear the petition this morning because, obviously, the persons who subscribed to that petition are way behind events. I suppose that is a product of the fact that perhaps they cannot hear the radio. I do understand that, within 18 months or so, people in remote areas of the Northern Territory should again be able to receive short wave from Cox Peninsula. I understand that the federal government is allocating funds for that purpose. The Northern Territory government has taken action through the Restrictive Trade Practices Tribunal in respect of the Packer agreement with the Australian Cricket Board of Control. The hearing of the matter will commence within about a week or so. It is difficult to know whether Territorians will be able to see any test cricket on TV this year. Yesterday, I sent a further letter to the Minister for Post and Telecommunications regarding the coverage of major sporting events by the Australian Broadcasting Commission, including coverage of the 1980 Olympic Games. I thought we should take steps now to do our best to ensure that people in this remote area will see what their fellow Australian citizens down south will be seeing.

I have made representation in the strongest terms to Mr Staley on the basis that the ABC has a responsibility to provide a good all-round service to people, especially in remote areas, and that the Territory is virtually covered by the ABC in the absence of any other Territory-wide media network. Therefore, the ABC has a special responsibility for the Territory to ensure that we are kept well abreast of developments in the sporting world and, of course, in other areas as well. I will report to the House from time to time on the success or otherwise of my negotiations with the minister.

1187 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is it his intention to institute any form of inquiry into the handling of the dog problem in Darwin by the corporation prior to the passage of the Dog Bill as requested by 1695 people of Darwin.

ANSWER

The matter is under consideration.

1188 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the current position regarding the recommissioning of the North Australia Railway?

ANSWER

The Commonwealth has agreed to our proposal that we undertake a joint study into the benefits and costs of a standard-gauge railway between Alice Springs and Darwin and for the Australian National Railways to identify the corridor for this railway so that the land can be reserved. Work has commenced on both projects. The joint study team consisting of Mr Grant Taylor, Commonwealth Department of Transport, and Mr Bill Foo, Department of Transport and Works, is expected to have its report completed by the end of the year. The Chief Minister has written to the Prime Minister urging a Commonwealth commitment to commence construction of the rail link within 5 years.

1189 Mr OLIVER to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it the government's policy to utilise to the full the resources of the Northern Territory Tourist Bureau when making official travel arrangements?

ANSWER

I have not given this matter any consideration. For instance, when I make visits interstate or, infrequently, when I make visits overseas, the people that we go directly to are the airlines concerned. I am not sure whether any other ministers avail themselves of the services of the Northern Territory Tourist Bureau nor am I aware whether any departments avail themselves of those services. If the government gave all its business en masse to the Northern Territory Tourist Bureau, it could cause some dislocation in the travel industry. I doubt that the Tourist Bureau would be in a position in Darwin to handle such an influx of business because there are only about 6 staff in the office. It would mean that staff presently employed in airlines offices would probably not have enough work to do. Whilst I appreciate the question and will certainly look into the matter, I think it could cause problems. The Northern Territory Tourist Bureau should direct its efforts more towards the promotion of tourism outside the Territory and satisfying the requirements of visitors to the various centres in which the bureau has offices rather than actually directly selling plane tickets.

1190 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

There has been concern expressed in my electorate as to the future of the Larrakeyah Primary School. This is a growing and much needed school in the Darwin area. What is the future of the Larrakeyah Primary School and when can it be expected that the existing facilities will be brought up to the standard of existing primary schools?

ANSWER

Let me assure the honourable member that there are no plans that I am aware of to phase out the operations of the Larrakeyah Primary School. Nonetheless, I think it is the responsibility of any government to

maximise the use of the resources which are available to it. There is no question that the 2 primary schools in the greater Darwin district together have a smaller student population than one of the average northern suburbs primary schools. When we talk about upgrading the facilities to the standard of other primary schools, it would be absolutely impossible to upgrade Larrakeyah without bulldozing it and rebuilding it completely which is probably not warranted having regard to population densities.

To answer the question of providing additional materials to the school, I indicated to the House the other day that one particular school gained from the loss of the Darwin Primary School. That school was Larrakeyah and one would presume that its furniture and fittings are in good order. Nonetheless, there are deficiences at that school, such as playground equipment, and the department has this in mind. As funds become avilable, those facilities will be upgraded.

There is the further problem of unsightly ground adjacent to Larrakeyah. That ground is a very steep slope and is unsuitable for a playground. The best thing that I can do is to take the matter up with the Chief Minister in his capacity as minister responsible for the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission so that that area is upgraded to be a more aesthetically pleasing piece of ground.

1191 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will the minister take steps to ensure that traffic lights are erected at the Berrimah intersection of the Stuart Highway and McMillans Road? If not, what steps are being taken to make this potential death trap a safer intersection?

ANSWER

I can only say that we could look at the matter. I would not say positively here today that we will put lights on that major highway. I understand that there have been some problems. I will have the matter examined.

1192 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

My question relates to a parking problem with school buses outside Nhulunbuy Area School. Has the minister taken any steps to improve the parking facilities for these buses because there is a safety problem? If so, when does he envisage such work will commence?

ANSWER

I have been aware of the difficulty at Nhulunbuy Area School for some time having visited the place on several occasions. We have taken steps with the Department of Transport and Works to increase the area available to buses. That work should commence very shortly with a view to being completed some time early in the first term of next year. It is proposed to provide parking for at least 4 buses. One would assume also that, if you have a problem with safe depositing of children from buses, the same would apply to cars. It is unlikely that there would be 4 buses there at any one time. This would allow a safe spot for parents to deposit children from cars.

1193 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it the minister's intention to establish an advisory council for handicapped children?

ANSWER

It would be somewhat misleading to say yes because, in effect, there already is an advisory committee which makes final recommendations on the placement of students in such places as the Darwin Special School. The question obviously relates to the formalisation of that in the terms of the Education Act. That would be my intention Mr Speaker.

1194 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What plans does the Northern Territory government have to build a third major water storage for Darwin and environs?

ANSWER

It is planned to build a third major water storage when it is required. We are looking at options at present and the necessary planning is underway.

1195 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Under what conditions and which crops will be covered by the operations of the crop development scheme for 1979-80? What staff are available to service the scheme and what markets are available for crops grown in the Northern Territory.

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place his question on notice.

1196 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the panel of 3 members to report to the Territory government on the applications regarding the proposed takeover of Connair yet met physically? If not, can he indicate when they will be meeting and if the 2 members who come from outside the Territory will be required to stay in the Territory to report as soon as possible?

ANSWER

I am not in a position to provide that information. I would ask the honourable member to place the questions on notice. Furthermore, I would consider the proposition put forward by the honourable member in the last question to be rather unreasonable.

1197 Mr VALE to TREASURER

Can the Treasurer advise the House whether the Northern Territory government loan-raising program which closes tomorrow has been successful?

ANSWER

It does appear that the government's loan will be fully subscribed.

As at 19 November, a total of $7,176,000 was subscribed to the Northern Territory government's $10m program. It was pleasing to note that $5.3m came from Territory residents and institutions based in the Territory. There were 243 contributions under $50,000 which amounted to $427,000. I suspect that most of those were probably from small individual investers. It is very heartening to see that people are prepared to put their faith in the Territory. It is quite an attractive investment which has been put on the market for the first time. It seems that it has been a very successful exercise.

1198 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

An Aboriginal spokesman was quoted in the NT News yesterday as saying, "They are complaining that people are camping everywhere but it is no use trying to shift them if there is nowhere to shift them to". What progress has been made to provide land for transient Aboriginal campers in the Darwin area and, in particular, will land be provided near the new Casuarina Hospital for Aboriginal campers?

ANSWER

In Darwin, there have been 3 needs claims settled. The Railway Dam was the first one and I understand that development is proceeding there at the present time. Kulaluk was recently handed over and this is quite a substantial area. The third one which has been completed is the Knuckey's Lagoon lease which has not been formally handed over but people are aware that it is theirs. It has not been formally handed over because problems have arisen in arranging a handover ceremony. At present, I do not know of further needs applications to the government from Aboriginals in towns in the Northern Territory. The member for Fannie Bay specifically referred to land in the vicinity of Casuarina Hospital. I do not think any application has been made for any specific land there but we would certainly consider the matter if one is made.

1199 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he able to provide any further information about the government's offer to send a volunteer health unit to East Timor?

ANSWER

The honourable member for Nightcliff raised this matter on 2 occasions. As a result of her reference to the issue last night, we had departmental officers take the matter up with the federal government which is considering this issue. Honourable members would all appreciate that we have to operate within the framework of a national effort in offering assistance to Timor. It is not possible for us to fly off on our own. I would like to advise the House of the contents of a letter between the Chief Minister and the Prime Minister making the offer and then consequently advise the House of the subsequent result:

> *My Dear Prime Minister, My government is anxious that the Northern Territory should make a practical offer to the Commonwealth government with regard to the famine situation in Kampuchea and, more particularly, in East Timor. Australia is assisting these countries on a large scale with food supplies, additional funds and specialist personnel.*

I believe the Northern Territory is in a position to assist in a modest way with Northern Territory Department of Health volunteers. In my view, we should actively consider the position of aid to our neighbour East Timor and I understand we could, in all probability, raise a Northern Territory volunteer health unit from the Department of Health consisting of a doctor, 4 or more nurses, a dietician and administrative support. Such a team could, of course, only operate as a part of an overall Australian or Red Cross relief organisation having its own logistic support system, equipment and supplies

If you consider the above offer is necessary and acceptable, I will make the Secretary of the Department of Health, Dr Gurd, available to assist in making more detailed arrangements with officials you may wish to nominate.

Yours,

Paul Everingham.

There has been a great silence since that letter was transmitted to Canberra. At the time the offer was made, we regarded the matter as one of urgency because we felt that every day that went by was just another unnecessary day of suffering and famine for people on the other end. Last night, I received a reply from the Department of the Prime Minister:

A proposal to send a medical team to East Timor is under consideration. The whole question of aid is one that has to be handled very carefully as it is a matter of what can be proposed to the Indonesian government which will be accepted by them.

The Australian government is most anxious not to disturb negotiations in getting food directly to Timor rather than through Jakarta and it is a question of weighing up whether the offer of a medical team may upset these other priority arrangements.

The department assures us that the matter is being actively pursued and they will let us know something definite as soon as it can be arranged.

For the information of members, we will follow up the matter by contacting the federal government every 2 or 3 days until there is a result because it seems to me it is taking them an unnecessarily long time to consider an offer of the sort that we have made.

1200 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In view of his undertaking that the government will contribute $10,000 to the construction of a causeway over the Elizabeth River, has he made any inquiries as to whether the owners of land in other subdivisions in the rural area would benefit from improved access to their land? If so, does the government intend to contribute to the cost of improving access in the same way that it is assisting the subdividers of the Elizabeth River estate?

ANSWER

One would not have to be very bright to assume that the government contribution to other roads in the area would be of benefit to land owners. That was a rather ridiculous question that the honourable member for Sanderson posed. The government has the responsibility to make and upgrade all public roads in the Northern Territory many of which are of a fairly poor standard. However, if a developer lodges a current application the government can say: "Well, if you are going to subdivide this parcel of land and therefore reap the benefits, you will have to provide a reasonable standard of access to it". This of course has only been possible in the Darwin rural area where most of the freehold land is. Amendments to the relevant legislation in this House last year, over which the opposition fought very savagely stopped a whole range of subdivisions right in their tracks including the one at Elizabeth River. We are able to say to the developer, "Unless you contribute fairly towards this crossing, which admittedly will benefit more than simply the landowners to whom you will sell your land, you will not receive approval for the rest of your subdivision". The government has an on-going program of maintaining roads. Where other people will reap great financial benefits from subdivisions, we are asking them to contribute to public roads and public crossings which provide access to their subdivisions whether or not these also provide access to other people.

1201 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it proposed that the government will support the establishment of a marina in the Darwin area?

ANSWER

The government does support the establishment of a marina in Darwin. In fact, it has undertaken preliminary studies into a range of sites that might be considered. Some of the sites mentioned in reports are subject to further environmental clearances. In due course, I imagine that Cabinet will take the view that further feasibility studies should be undertaken.

1202 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is there a likely or guaranteed market for rice grown in the Northern Territory? Will the Northern Territory government be bearing in mind the famine and starvation in Kampuchea and East Timor in formulating its policies on cropping for 1979-80.

ANSWER

It is very hard to obtain a guaranteed market for any crop grown in the Northern Territory. At present, the Northern Territory government guarantees certain prices to growers. The only 2 growers in the Northern Territory who are making some money are Ron Hersey at Katherine and Ian Dahlenburg at Ti Tree. The Dahlenburg story is not as widely known as it should be. He has 5000 table grape vines and, this year, he will be in the Adelaide market some 6 weeks before the southern producers of table grapes. Samples of that crop will be sent to South-east Asia to see if we can excite some interest in that region.

The tone of the honourable gentleman's question was partly answered by the Minister for Health in his explanation about the health teams to Timor. I think the explanation does relate back to the Commonwealth government which prefers to coordinate all aid out of Australia. I do not know of any other mechanism that could be used.

1203 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise if an amount of $3.2m was provided for in the 1979-80 capital works program to increase the Tennant Creek water supply to meet the needs of the new abattoirs?

ANSWER

The answer is yes. It was provided for at the time the abattoir was approved. The available information indicated that the Cabbage Gum Basin would not have the capacity to provide sufficient water for the operation together with other developments in the Tennant Creek area. Supply from the Tennant Creek west bore field was therefore considered and a cost advice estimate of $3.2m was given to supply water for the abattoirs and other local needs.

In view of the considerable expense involved in developing this new bore field and pipeline, investigations were resumed to update information on the Cabbage Gum and Kelly Wells Basin. It is now known that the potential of these bore fields is much greater than had previously been proved. It will therefore be possible to defer development of the Tennant Creek west bore field for some time. This item has been deleted from the 1979-80 capital works program. As far as the original project, the Division of Primary Industry was asked to assess the real rural demand for irrigation water in the area and to determine soil suitability. This information will be relevant to any future development of the Tennant Creek west site.

1204 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware that 1980 is the International Year of Handicapped Persons? Is the government considering any action to mark this event? Will the minister keep this in mind when he is considering applications for community grants next year?

ANSWER

I am aware that next year is the International Year for the Handicapped. I will take the honourable member's comments into consideration at the time of the grants-in-aid for 1980-81 grants program.

1205 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he confirm that one of the subdivisions of the Elizabeth River Estate and the person with whom he has negotiated the construction of the causeway over the Elizabeth River is, in fact, David Veale who is also the Director of Land Development in his department?

ANSWER

I cannot confirm that because it is not true. The only person I have had extensive discussions with on this matter and the only person, as I

understand it, who has any interest in the further subdivision of the area concerned is a Mr Lapira of Joondanna Investments.

1206 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

On the late radio news on the ABC last night the Secretary of the Department of Health confirmed that patients were in fact being turned away from the Outpatients Department at Darwin Hospital. Will he investigate this matter in view of the fact that he was apparently unaware of this policy? Will he explain what he intends to do about it?

ANSWER

I took this matter up with the Secretary of the Department, Dr Gurd, and the advice I have on this particular matter is as follows: "I wish to advise that no change of policy has taken place in the Darwin Hospital. There are 3 outpatient departments at Darwin Hospital: one which provides specialist consultation by referral; a casualty department which works around the clock to deal with casualties and other emergencies; and a third that deals with primary care needs of an urgent nature". I am informed that the latter is not intended, designed or staffed to provide a full general practitioner service and cases of a non-urgent nature have always been referred back to a particular GP.

The situation has always been particularly difficult on public holidays and weekends when people perhaps find it difficult to obtain the services of their GP. As a result, the available facilities become overloaded and the hospital is unable to cope. A notice to this effect has been displayed in the outside section of the outpatients department in both English and Greek for the last 7 years. It comes back to an issue of communication between people. If people going to outpatients departments have no private practitioner and have always dealt with the hospital, they should make that perfectly clear to the doctor or the person to whom they are talking. It has been pointed out that, in many cases, people who have their own private practitioner and know they cannot obtain services after hours or weekends are quite happy to be given immediate attention at the hospital. We are dealing with 2 different problems. I ask the member again to give me the names and the instances involved so that we can pursue the matter and have it rectified at a personal level.

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PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

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QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 21 FEBRUARY 1980

FROM 28 NOVEMBER 1978

201 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is causing the delay in the signing of the lease agreement between V.B. Perkins and Company and the Northern Territory Port Authority, a matter which has now been in dispute for exactly 6 years?

FROM 20 NOVEMBER 1979

1092 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

(a) What is the annual post-operative infection rate for the past 5 years for the Alice Springs hospital?

(b) Are comparative figures available over the same period for the major hospitals in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney and, if so, what are they?

1139 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Bearing in mind that the price of vegetables in Alice Springs is sometimes double that in Adelaide, and that the so-called Alice Springs "farm area" is plagued by salt problems, will the minister advise what steps will be taken to provide a more suitable alternative area for the production of farm produce in the centre?

FROM 12 FEBRUARY 1980

1157 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he inform the House of the electricity needs of an uranium enrichment plant and the cost of establishment of such a plant?

1183 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why does the Motor Vehicle Registry no longer place on car registration stickers the date of expiry of registration of the car and the engine number of the car?

1210 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why has the Darwin rural area, including Berrimah, only been given $80,000 for the re-gravelling of rural roads out of a total allocation of $11.5 million for repairs and maintenance?

1213 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What were the amounts of the 3 loans made to the North Australian Baptist Homes Trust in relation to hostels in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs?

2. How much has been repaid?

3. If these properties are surrendered, will the loans be 'extinguished'?

4. Under what terms will the loans be 'extinguished'?

1214 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What were the amounts of the 3 loans made to the Church of England, Carpentaria College Inc.?

2. How much was repaid?

3. What are the terms under which these loans were 'extinguished'?

1218 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In answer to a question asked on Tuesday 13.11.79 the minister said environmental inspectors can work after hours and on weekends to maintain surveillance over some of the illegal mining in the rural area.

How many man hours have been taken up with this work since this reorganisation, what areas have been under surveillance, at what time of day and how much illegal sand and gravel mining was found?

1221 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. When is the Mines Safety Control Act expected to commence?
2. When will regulations to this Act come into existence?

1225 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Why has the Survey Branch sole occupancy of a building on a residential block in Third Street, Katherine, when residential land is at a premium in the town?
2. Are there special circumstances, such as refusal by the Public Service Commissioner to pay adequate travelling allowance or camping allowance, which make spasmodic occupancy of this building essential?

1226 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Do secondary school teachers have a guaranteed release time amounting to at least 10% of teaching time for preparation, marking examinations, papers, &c?
2. Do primary school teachers enjoy the same provision and, if not, why not?

1229 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What is the estimated operating costs of the small generators at the:

(a) 15-mile Experiment Farm;

(b) Katherine Gorge; and

(c) 14-mile Caves?

1230 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

To what extent do government departments and statutory authorities have to consult the Public Service Commissioner's office on industrial relations matters?

1231 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What guarantees of occupancy by Northern Territory government departments are given to developers of office accommodation in the Territory?

1264 Mr ISAACS to THE TREASURER

Could the Treasurer advise the Assembly as to the amount of the Treasurer's advance spent in the second quarter of the financial year 1979-80 and also the nature of that expenditure?

1265 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What was the cost of the trip to the recent PATA conference in Manila?

2. How many overseas trips have been undertaken by Ministers on official business in the calendar year 1979?

3. What has been the total cost of these trips?

1266 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many days travel allowance has been paid to the Minister for Education while in Darwin during the financial year 1978?

2. How many days travel allowance has been paid to the Minister for Education while in Darwin from 1 July 1979 to 31 December 1979?

1267 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Has he attempted to persuade the government to base him in Alice Springs instead of Darwin?

2. If so, why is he still based in Darwin?

3. If not, will he do so?

1268 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Can the Minister for Health tell the Assembly how many people travel interstate for radio therapy and associated treatment annually?

2. What is the cost to the Northern Territory government to provide this service?

3. Has a study been undertaken to determine whether this situation is a cost effective one over a 5 year period?

4. Has this severe dislocation been assessed in relation to the overall management of the disease and to the mental attitude of the patient involved?

1269 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. How many vehicles use the level crossing daily at the Larapinta Drive - Telegraph Terrace intersection in Alice Springs?

2. Is it true that a set of traffic lights will be installed at the intersection and crossing?

3. In the matter of arrangements being made for the standard gauge railway planning, what decision-making powers are held by -

   (a) the NT government;
   (b) the Alice Springs Municipality; and
   (c) the Australian National Railways Commission?

4. In the event of a dispute over the location of the railway, is it true that the Alice Springs municipality can be over-ruled by the A.N.R.?

5. Will the Minister supply a list, including dates, names of participants and the agenda of meetings which have been held between the A.N.R. and his department during the past two years and, if not, why not?

1270 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has the steering committee on tourism been formed to date as part of the governments promised program announced last August to further heritage conservation and tourist development in the Northern Territory?

2. If not, why not?

3. If so, can the Minister detail the committee's achievements and undertakings to date?

4. What action has the committee taken to ensure optimum involvement by all levels of government, community groups, and the tourist industry in the task of furthering heritage conservation and tourist development in the Territory?

5. How will all regions and locations within the Territory benefit from the committee's programmes?

1271 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Has the Department of Lands and Housing approved the lease application of the Ilpapa Association for a site adjacent to the Blatherskite Range, about 600 metres west of the Staurt Highway, Alice Springs?

2. If not, why not?

3. If so, why has the Minister failed to inform either the Ilpapa Association or the Tangatjira Council of the decision?

4. Is the Minister aware that in a letter dated 11 November 1979, the Minister for Transport and Works advised the Ilpapa Association that electricity connection to the site was to proceed?

5. Is it true that the Minister subsequently advised NTEC not to proceed with the connection of electricity, claiming lack of support for the lease claim from the Departments of Health and Aboriginal Affairs?

6. Is the Minister aware that the Central Regional Director of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, after receiving confirmation of support for the site proposal from the Secretary of Health, wrote to his Department last month indicating his support for the site proposal?

7. In the light of documented support from the Departments of Health and Aboriginal Affairs, can the Minister identify the obstructions currently facing the Ilpapa Association in the development of the site, and specifically in electricity connection?

8. Is it true that the Minister visited Alice Springs last month?

9. Is it true that the Minister stated in correspondence last September that he would offer alternative land to the Ilpapa Association on his next visit to Alice Springs?

10. If so, why did the Minister fail to consult the Ilpapa Association on his last visit to Alice Springs?

1272 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Are members of the Northern Territory Police allowed to purchase their own hand guns for official use and, if so, what regulations govern the ownership of these weapons?

2. Will the Minister supply all the instructions and regulations governing the carrying and use of firearms by Northern Territory Police?

3. If not, why not?

1273 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Why is Palmdale Insurance not deregistered as a writer of workers compensation insurance in the Northern Territory?

1297 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What are the guidelines followed in assessing the credentials of a company wishing to sell workers compensation policies within the Northern Territory?

1298 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Will the Minister provide the House with more details about the type of aircraft, particularly light aircraft, to be used by the new Northern Territory airline?

2. Is he aware that people of Western Queensland rejected proposals to replace the domestic carriers with a new service using smaller planes likely to be used in the Northern Territory?

3. What steps is the Government taking to ensure that air travellers in the Northern Territory do not receive an inferior service in terms of in-flight service and facilities under the new airline?

1299 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Will he advise what facilities are provided at Berrimah Gaol for female prisoners in terms of -

   (a) sport and recreation;
   (b) work areas and work undertaken;
   (c) work release programs; and
   (d) further education?

2. Will he further advise in what way these facilities differ, if any, from those available to male prisoners?

1300 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has he received a letter dated 22 October 1979 from the Alice Springs Todd Traders Association regarding problems associated with unsuitable parking facilities and service lanes?

2. If so, has he considered the questions raised in this letter and replied to the association?

3. What action does he propose to take to resolve the lack of adequate parking facilities and service lanes in Alice Springs.

1301 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Who is responsible for the maintenance of internal service roads in Aboriginal communities?

2. Who is responsible for the maintenance of main access roads to Aboriginal communities?

3. Is the planning of main access roads to Aboriginal communities and internal service roads undertaken as a correlated construction exercise?

4. Who is responsible for the construction and maintenance of access roads to Aboriginal outstations?

5. Does the government offer on-site technical assistance to Aboriginal communities in respect of road building?

6. Is there Aboriginal representation on the Rural Roads Board?

7. What safeguards exist to ensure the preservation of Aboriginal sacred sites which may be affected by road construction?

1302 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCTION

1. What is the NT Government's policy regarding the concept of Aboriginal communities employing their own adult educators?

2. What is the NT Government's policy regarding Aboriginal communities assessing the performance of adult educators within their own communities?

3. What priority will Aboriginal vocational training receive in the 1980-81 NT Education budget?

1303 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many students graduated from all courses last year at Kormilda College and Yirara College respectively?

2. What proportion of last year's graduates from Kormilda College and Yirara College respectively are now -

   (a) employed; and
   (b) unemployed?

1304 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Considering that the Minister advised the Ilpapa Association in November 1979 that arrangements for electricity supply were to proceed, when will the Association be provided with suitable electricity supply?

1305 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is it a fact that an organisation or incorporated body must first obtain the approval of the NT Department of Education in order to be eligible for a grant from the Schools Commission Innovations Committee and, if so, why?

2. What criteria are used by the Education Department in assessing an organisation's performance or goals in respect of approvals from the Schools Commission Innovations Committee?

3. Is it a fact that the Education Department has refused to approve the activities of the Yipirinya School in Alice Springs in conjunction with two applications for a grant from the Schools Commission Innovations Committee made in 1978 and 1979 and, if so, why?

4. Does an "independent school" within the terms of the Education Act require approval from the Education Department in order to be eligible for a grant from the Schools Commission Innovations Committee?

5. What is the government's policy on Aboriginal self-management in education?

6. Is it a fact that the Principal Education Adviser for the Alice Springs region recently informed the Yipirinya Council that the best solution for the Council is to become a part of the Education Department and, if so, why?

7. Does the Minister plan to support other education proposals similar to the Yipirinya School?

860 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is the minister aware of a letter, dated 14 August 1979, over the signature of Dr Lyn Walker, Head of the Department of Education Studies of the Darwin Community College, which has been sent to all external students enrolled with the Darwin Community College?

2. Does the minister share Dr Walker's concern that the Community College's commitment to external studies is under threat?

3. Is it true that the Darwin Community College, principal and staff, regard the position of a co-ordinator of external studies to be absolutely essential for the proper maintenance of the college's external studies program and, if so, does the minister share this opinion?

4. Can the minister give an assurance that cost-paring exercises will not erode the academic integrity of the Darwin Community College or affect its external study programs?

ANSWER

1. Yes, I have recently read this letter.

2. No, I do not share Dr Walker's concern that the Community College's commitment to external studies is under threat.

3. The Darwin Community College, principal and staff, recognise that the effectiveness of the college's external studies program would be increased by designating an individual as responsible for the coordination of the college's external studies program and are proceeding accordingly.

4. The 1979-80 budget provides for some growth in college activities and there will be no erosion of the academic integrity of the Darwin Community College.

   The College is currently reviewing its activities for 1980 so that its resources are utilised in accordance with the priorities attached to the various programs of the college.

937 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. In view of the importance of the live cattle export trade to the NT cattle industry, will holding facilities be established at the wharf and will unloading facilities be improved?

2. What were the circumstances which resulted in the "Orient Clipper" incurring $60,000 (or approximately $40 per head for each of the 1,400 head of cattle loaded) in stevedoring charges in June 1979?

ANSWER

1. There are no immediate plans to establish cattle holding facilities within the port of Darwin as there is not sufficient land available adjacent to the main wharf areas.

   What limited amount of land that is available in the port must be used for the handling and storage of general cargo and bulk cargo.

   Existing cattle unloading facilities at Fort Hill wharf are being relocated to the Iron Ore wharf as part of the overall new wharf project. Unloading facilities are being upgraded and improved in the

process incorporating overhead gates to replace existing swing gates that have caused problems in the past.

An improved hydraulic hoist rampway is to be erected parallel to the Iron Ore wharf face sloping down to ships deck. The new rampway is designed to allow loading of cattle on board ships even at medium low tide.

2. Northern Territory Port Authority port charges associated with the loading of 1367 cattle on board the "Orient Clipper" in June 1979 amounted to $4.92 per head.

   Burns Philp Co Ltd were shipping agents for the "Orient Clipper" - June 1979 voyage. While details of their stevedoring and owner's account charges are not available, it is understood that their charges did not exceed $25 per head. At least part of this cost was attributed to one wharf gang being rostered for an afternoon shift and no cattle were delivered for loading on that shift.

941 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In view of the expressed opinion of the Chief Minister of the value of tourism to the NT does the government intend to lower the tax on toilet facilities which are not used to capacity for months on end during the off season for tourists?

ANSWER

A tax is not levied on toilet facilities in the Northern Territory.

An across the board annual charge is made for the installation and maintenance of a sewerage system. This charge is not influenced by day to day usage and applies even where a property is not connected to the sewer.

Any reduction in charge to some users would result in increased charges to other users.

The government does not intend to reduce charges on toilet facilities at tourist establishments. Tourists are being encouraged to visit the Territory in all seasons. This should increase usage of facilities and improve recovery of costs on a more even basis throughout the year.

948 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the Teachers Federation a policy on teachers' dress, hair and beard styles?

ANSWER

The following information was provided to me by the Northern Territory Teachers' Federation:

(a) That our (NTTF) Policy Register contains no statement on this matter.

(b) That we take the view that teachers will, as responsible and professional people, adopt dress, hair and beard styles appropriate to their location and situation.

(c) That despite rumours to the contrary, the Federation does not insist that vigorous facial hair and beard styles should be a pre-requisite for membership of the Territory's Teaching Service.

953 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Will the minister table the lot numbers and location of the houses involved in the Special Aboriginal Housing Scheme in Alice Springs?

2. How much money was received by the NT government from the federal government in the last financial year for the scheme?

3. How many new houses will be built?

4. How many old houses will be converted?

5. When did the building and conversion program begin?

6. When will the program end?

7. When will tenants start to move in?

8. When the scheme was first proposed were any of the houses to be built or converted opposite or next to privately-owned houses?

9. If so, how many?

10. Will any houses now being built or converted be opposite or next to privately-owned houses?

11. If so, how many?

12. Did the minister receive a letter from the Central Land Council on 17 July, over the signature of Mr Ross Howie, asking for an early reply regarding several questions on the scheme?

13. Has the minister replied?

14. If so, when did he reply?

15. If not, why?

ANSWER

1. No

2. In the 1979-80 financial year $726,000 was received from the federal government for the program. These funds are for allocation throughout the Northern Territory.

3. Ten new houses will be built in Alice Springs this financial year.

4. No houses will be converted under this scheme in Alice Springs.

5. The building program began on 30 March 1979

6. The last house will be completed in late March 1980.

7. The government has decided that the most appropriate and effective method of arranging tenancies would be to delegate some decision making power to an Aboriginal Management Committee. This committee will decide when the houses will be occupied.

8. Yes.

9. Five houses were originally planned for construction proximate to privately-owned dwellings.

10. In this instance no. However, one of the houses in Giles Street is next to a row of single storey privately owned flats.

11. Not applicable.

12.) Yes
13.)

14. 19 October 1979.

15. Not applicable.

959 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Does the Education Department provide special assistance for gifted children? If so, what, in detail, are the programs currently in operation and have additional funds been allocated for them in the 1979-80 financial year?

ANSWER

The question is in effect, 3 questions, and is answered as such.

1. Does the Education Department provide Special Assistance for gifted children?

   Yes the department does provide special assistance to gifted children. There are several aspects to the nature of the commitment and the assistance that these children receive.

   Staffing and inservice-

   (a) A process of identification conducted by guidance officers and special advisory teachers through routine group testing and individual assessment of possible bright children.

   (b) The provision of 2 special resource teachers and one part-time instructor who have both an advisory and supportive teaching role. The advisory role is to stimulate an awareness of the existence of these children and to encourage school based initiatives to satisfy unmet needs. Their role is confined to short term supportive teaching in the areas of their particular expertise and assist in organisation of projects between schools which are seeking to provide enrichment programs. Most of these projects involve these officers in activities held after school hours and on weekends.

   (c) An officer of the department has been working part-time, since the inception of the existing program, on preparing an evaluative report on the current method of approaching the task. This report is almost completed.

   (d) The department has funded two conferences on the teaching of gifted children and provided interstate trips for 3 officers involved in Advisory Services.

2. What in detail, are the programs currently in operation?

School initiated programs

Several schools have initiated programs which have been developed by rearranging existing programs. Additional staffing was not provided other than the temporary services of two special resource teachers. Close parent and teacher contact characterises the implementation and continuation of these programs. Eight schools have initiated programs to cater for the gifted but many schools prefer not to draw undue attention to gifted children and the enrichment programs offered may achieve the desired results by subtle manipulation of the curriculum or by providing an extensive choice of interest electives.

3. Have additional funds been allocated in the 1979-80 financial year?

Firm allocation for 1979-80 has not been determined as the needs are still being examined in the special area, which includes the gifted. It is anticipated at this stage that the 1979-80 allocation will be additional in comparison with other years but the difference will be only marginal. This is due to the current approach to gifted programs being based on a philosophy of self help with a minimum of subsidisation. In addition to money allocated to the resource teachers to enable them to finance any new stimulus programs not funded from local school resources, excursion funds are made available to subsidise some weekend excursion programs. The excursion funds are similar to those set aside for other special groups of children i.e. handicapped.

1009 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Which organisations received subsidies for social workers employed in community work in 1978-79?

2. Which organisations will receive the subsidy in 1979-80?

ANSWER

1. The following organisations received a grant under the subsidised Social Worker Scheme in 1978-79.

   (a) Finke River Mission, Alice Springs;
   (b) YWCA Darwin Inc.;
   (c) Franciscan Sisters, Tennant Creek;
   (d) Canossian Sisters Darwin;
   (e) Catholic Church Alice Springs;
   (f) St. Mary's Childrens' Village, Alice Springs; and
   (g) Galiwinku Community Inc.

2. The same organisations are currently in receipt of a subsidy in 1979-80.

3. The following applications are under consideration for 1979-80

   (a) Australian Red Cross, Darwin Branch;
   (b) The Catholic Church, Alice Springs; and
   (c) Darwin Family Centres.

1010 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Which community organisations received Grants-in-Aid in 1978-79?
2. How much did each organisation receive?
3. Which community organisations applied for Grants-in-Aid for 1979-80?
4. Which organisations will receive Grants-in-Aid in 1979-80?
5. How much will each organisation receive?

ANSWER

		$
1. & 2.	Aboriginal Students New Zealand Tour (Department of Education)	5,000
	Adelaide Symphony Orchestra	9,000
	Alice Springs Art Foundation	1,000
	Alice Springs Girl Guides Local Association	2,000
	Alice Springs High School Band and Choir Association	1,700
	Alice Springs Scout Group Committee	3,000
	Alice Springs Senior Citizens Association	1,000
	Alice Springs S.P.C.A.	1,000
	Alice Springs Table Tennis Association	1,000
	Alice Springs Theatre Group	3,000
	Alice Springs Y.M.C.A.	5,250
	Alice Springs Youth Centre Inc	66,000
	Alice Springs Y.W.C.A.	5,000
	Alyangula Area School Association	2,300
	Apex Club of Alice Springs Inc	500
	Arts Council of Australia (N.T. Division)	56,300
	Arunga Park Speedway	2,632
	Australian Inland Mission Old Timers Home Alice Springs	20,000
	Australian Inland Mission, Tennant Creek	30,000
	Batchelor School Fund	250
	Boys' Brigade	500
	Bradshaw Scout and Cub Group Committee	1,000
	Browns Mart	59,950
	Browns Mart - Compass	2,000
	Browns Mart - Kids Convoy	1,000
	Casuarina Girl Guides	118
	Central Australia Junior Soccer Association	2,000
	City to Surf Run	600
	The Corporation of the City of Darwin	260,000
	C.R.E.S.T.	500

	$
Crisis Line Inc	1,000
Daly River Community Development Association	5,000
Darwin Bougainvillea Festival Committee	4,250
Darwin and District Alcohol and Drug Dependence	7,500
Darwin Family Centres Inc	251
Darwin Junior Baseball League	2,000
Darwin Junior Soccer Association	2,000
Darwin Motor Sports Complex	201,000
Darwin Rotary Club	500
Darwin Rugby Football League	7,000
Darwin Sailing Club	1,000
Darwin Stamp and Coin Club	750
Darwin Sub Aqua Club	5,000
Darwin Tenpin Bowling	1,774
Darwin Theatre Group	5,000
Darwin Toy Library Association	3,000
Department of Education - Aboriginal Studies	2,000
Dynamoes Sports Club	500
Fellowship of Australian Writers	4,000
Forster Foundation for Drug Rehabilitation	4,500
The Gap Youth and Community Centre	13,000
The Good Neighbour Council of the Northern Territory	14,538
Gove Arts Theatre	1,020
Gove Land/Sea Communication	1,500
Gove Surf Life Saving Club	600
Hamilton Downs Youth Camp Association Inc	5,500
Katherine Citizens and Youth Club	3,000
Katherine Community Creche	1,500
Katherine Country Womens Association	250
Katherine Guides, Scouts and Brownies	2,250
Katherine Junior Cricket	880
Katherine Little Athletics	1,500
Katherine Railway Station	12,000
Katherine Regional Council Inc	44,000
Katherine Tennis Club	750
Keep Australia Beautiful Council	21,260
Mallapunyah Springs Parents and Citizens Association	750
National Trust	24,000
Nguiu Shire Council	3,000
Nhulunbuy Town Oval	10,000
Nhulunbuy Youth Club	560

North Australian Eisteddfod Society	2,182
Northern Territory Amateur Athletics	133
Northern Territory Amateur Swimming	500
Northern Territory Area Scout Association	10,000
Northern Territory Council of Social Service	21,500
Northern Territory Council on the Ageing	21,000
Northern Territory Craft Association	20,200
Northern Territory Cricket Association	400
Northern Territory Environment Council	1,000
Northern Territory Football League Inc	7,967
Northern Territory Girl Guides	5,000
Northern Territory Hockey Association	13,000
Northern Territory Local Government	1,000
Northern Territory Mini Bike Association	1,668
Northern Territory Netball Association	3,946
Northern Territory Pistol Shooting	1,200
Northern Territory Primary Schools Amateur Sports Association	1,000
Northern Territory Secondary Schools Sports Association	1,000
Northern Territory Soccer Federation	1,900
Northern Territory Tennis Association	10,000
Northern Territory Youth Hostels	2,500
Nursing Mothers Association of Australia	251
Oranda Judo Club	2,250
Parents Without Partners N.T. Inc	1,000
Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Association of Alice Springs Inc.	5,000
Project Garden City	788
Rapid Creek Primary School	200
Rotary Christmas Toy Appeal	500
Santa Teresa Sporting and Social Club	500
S.P.C.A. Darwin	2,000
Springvale Homestead	1,000
St Vincent de Paul Society - Alice Springs	6,000
St Vincent de Paul Society - Darwin	7,500
Tennant Creek Community Development Council	19,500
Tennant Creek Country Womens Association	550
Tennant Creek Golf Club	500
Tennant Creek Hospital	3,000
Tennant Creek Little Athletics	500
Tennant Creek Pensioners Association	11,000

	$
Top End Gem and Mineral Club	875
Unemployed Workers Union	100
Warrabri Blue Grass Band	800
Warrabri Y.M.C.A.	250
Yirrkala Dhanbul Community	4,500
Y.M.C.A. - Aboriginal Settlement	2,220
Y.M.C.A. - Darwin	32,000
Y.M.C.A. - School Leavers	1,270
Y.M.C.A. - Youth Leaders	650
Y.W.C.A. - Darwin Youth Refuge	29,450
Y.W.C.A. - Darwin	4,500

3. Alawa Scouts
Alice Springs Amateur Cycling
Alice Springs Art Foundation
Alice Springs Baseball Association
Alice Springs Bowling Club
Alice Springs Cricket Association
Alice Springs Folk Festival
Alice Springs Golf Club
Alice Springs Masonic Hall Association Inc
Alice Springs Mens Hockey Association
Alice Springs Obedience Dog Club
Alice Springs Pony Club
Alice Springs Senior Citizens Centre
Alice Springs Table Tennis
Alice Springs Tenpin Bowling Association
Alice Springs Top Half Folk Federation
Alice Springs Traeger Museum
Alice Springs Womens Centre
Alice Springs Youth Centre
Anguruga School
ANSUA - A New Start for the Under Achiever
Apex Club of Australia
Apex Club of Palmerston
Apostleship of the Sea, Darwin Inc
Araluen Cultural Trust
Arnhem Gun, Pistol and Rifle Club
Arts Council of Australia (N.T. Division)
Arunga Park Speedway
Australian and New Zealand Schools Exploring Society
Australian Association of Dance Education

Australian Inland Mission Old Timers Home, Alice Springs

Australian Red Cross, N.T. Division, for Old Timers Home, Tennant Creek

Australian Tang Soo Doo Association

Australian Youth Performing Arts Association

Bagot Park Speedway

Bindi Centre - Alice Springs

'Bloodwood' Folk Group

Bougainvillea Festival Inc

Boys Brigade

Browns Mart Community Arts Project

Casuarina High School

Central Australian Aviation

Central Australian Conservation Council

Central Australian Junior Motor Cycle Club

Clyde Fenton School

Corporation of the Municipality of Tennant Creek

Country Womens Association of the Northern Territory

Craft Council of North Australia

C.R.E.S.T.

Darwin Bowls Club

Darwin Community College

Darwin Family Centres Inc

Darwin Film Society

Darwin Golf Club

Darwin Gun Club

Darwin Junior Baseball League

Darwin Marriage Guidance Council

Darwin Motorcycle Club

Darwin Netball Association

Darwin Pistol Club

Darwin Prisoners' Aid

Darwin Rifle Club

Darwin Rugby Football League

Darwin Second Scout Group

Darwin Table Tennis Association

Darwin Tenpin Bowling

Darwin Theatre Group

Darwin Toy Library Association

Darwin Womens Centre

Deaf Childrens Association of the Northern Territory

Edelweiss Shooting Group

Ethnic Communities Council of the Northern Territory
Finke River Mission
Full Gospel Revival Fellowship
The Gap Youth and Community Centre
Gove Arts Theatre
Gove Country Golf Club
Gove Peninsula Surf Life Saving Club
Gove Squash Club
Creek Ladies Creche
Greek Orthodox Community of North Australia
Groote Eylandt Tennis Club
Gsell Centre
Hamilton Downs Youth Camp Association Inc
Handicapped Persons Association of the Northern Territory
Harvey's House Youth Refuge
Howard Springs Scouts
Institute for Aboriginal Development
Junior Tenpin Bowling Association - Darwin
Kanguru School Council
Katherine Citizens and Youth Club
Katherine Come Dancing Club
Katherine Country Womens Association
Katherine Girls Marching Association
Katherine Golf Club Inc
Katherine Guides, Scouts, Brownies and Parents
Katherine Horse and Pony Club
Katherine Little Athletics
Katherine Old Timers Home
Katherine Polocrosse Association
Katherine Regional Council Inc
Katherine Tennis Club
Katherine Theatre Group
Katherine Works Social Club
Keep Australia Beautiful Council
King Cobra Rod and Custom Club
Kiwanis Club of Darwin
Milingimbi Council
Missionary Franciscan Sisters, Tennant Creek
MOBS
National Folk Festival (Alice Springs)
Nhulunbuy Corporation Fishing Club

Nhulunbuy Police and Citizens Youth Club
Nhulunbuy Production Sedan Club
Nightcliff Rugby League
Nightcluff Swimming Association
North Australian Baptist Home Trust, Darwin
North Australian Gliding Club
Northern Australian Motor Sports Club
Northern Territory Advisory Committee on Education
Northern Territory Aerobatic Chapter
Northern Territory Athletics Centre
Northern Territory Amateur Power Lifting Association
Northern Territory Amateur Swimming Association
Northern Territory Area Scout Association
Northern Territory Arrow and Arafura Cadets
Northern Territory Arts Council
Northern Territory Ballet Association
Northern Territory Baseball League
Northern Territory Cricket Association
Northern Territory Council of Social Service
Northern Territory Council on the Ageing
Northern Territory Darts Council
Northern Territory District Bowling Association
Northern Territory Eight-ball Association
Northern Territory Eisteddfod Council
Northern Territory Environment Council
Northern Territory Football League
Northern Territory Hockey Association
Northern Territory Inter-town Chess
Northern Territory Junior Soccer Federation
Northern Territory Laser Association
Northern Territory Marching Girls Association
Northern Territory Netball Association
Northern Territory Pensioners Association
Northern Territory Primary Schools Amateur Sports Association
Northern Territory Rachuig Committee
Northern Territory Region Girl Guides
Northern Territory Rugby Football
Northern Territory Schools and Junior Rugby Union Inc
Northern Territory Secondary Schools Sports Association
Northern Territory Softball Association

Northern Territory Soccer Federation
Northern Territory Squash Racquets Association
Northern Territory Tennis Association
Northern Territory Womens Soccer Federation
Nungalinya College
Parents Without Partners
Pitchie Ritchie Sanctuary
Police and Citizens Youth Club
Project Garden City
The Rape Crisis Centre
Rehabilitation Association of the Northern Territory
Repco Reliability Trial
Salvation Army Alice Springs
Salvation Army Sunrise Centre Darwin
Salvation Army Youth Group
St Marys Primary School Choir
St Pauls Church Katherine
St Vincent de Paul Society Alice Springs
St Vincent de Paul Society Darwin
Tennant Creek Baseball Association
Tennant Creek Clay Shooting Association
Tennant Creek Community Development Council
Tennant Creek Community Creche
Tennant Creek Country Womens Association
Tennant Creek Gliding Club
Tennant Creek District Cricket Association
Tennant Creek Hospital Auxiliary
Tennant Creek Softball Association
Tennant Creek Speedway Club
Tennant Creek Theatrical Club
Tennant Creek Warrabri Y.M.C.A.
Tennant Creek Womens Bowling Club
Tennant Creek Youth Club
Top End Folk Federation
Top End Gem and Mineral Club
Volunteer Resource and Development Centre
Waratah Sports Club
Warririwi Community Inc
Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Association
Y.M.C.A. Alice Springs

Y.M.C.A. Darwin

Y.W.C.A. Alice Springs

Y.W.C.A. Darwin

4. and 5. A complete answer cannot be given at this stage as many applications are still being assessed. The following is a list of approved grants, most of which have been paid.

	$
Alice Springs Art Foundation	2,500
Alice Springs Cricket Association	600
Alice Springs Golf Club	15,000
Alice Springs Pony Club	200
ANSUA - A New Start for the Under Achiever	1,020
Apostleship of the Sea, Darwin Inc	5,000
Araluen Cultural Trust	35,000
Arnhem Gun Pistol and Rifle Club	2,000
Arts Council of Australia (N.T. Division)	71,000
Australian Inland Mission Old Timers Home Alice Springs	1,173
Australian Red Cross Old Timers Home Katherine	5,000
Australian Red Cross Old Timers Home Tennant Creek	966
Bougainvillea Festival	5,000
Brown's Mart Community Arts Project Inc	65,000
Corporation of the Municipality of Tennant Creek	7,000
Country Womens Association of the Northern Territory	4,800
Craft Council of North Australia	41,000
C.R.E.S.T	2,000
Crisis Line Inc	6,500
Darwin Film Society	2,500
Darwin Pistol Club	20,000
Darwin Table Tennis	588
The Gap Youth and Community Centre	17,000
Gove Country Golf Club	5,000
Gove Peninsula Surf Life Saving Club	2,500
Gove Squash Club	3,000
Greek Ladies Creche	250
Greek Orthodox Community of North Australia	480
Groote Eylandt Tennis Club	700
Hamilton Downs Youth Camp Association Inc	13,000
Heritage Projects	90,000
Institute for Aboriginal Development	20,050
Katherine Citizens and Youth Club	9,000

Katherine Community Relations Committee	5,000
Katherine Horse and Pony Club	5,000
Katherine Regional Council Inc	17,900
Keep Australia Beautiful Council	27,500
National Folk Festival	4,000
National Trust of Australia (N.T. Division)	30,000
Nhulunbuy Police and Citizens Youth Club	5,000
North Australian Gliding Club	1,000
North Australian Motor Sports Club	800
Northern Territory Aerobatic Chapter	1,372
Northern Territory Athletics Centre	1,594
Northern Territory Amateur Swimming Association	1,000
Northern Territory Amateur Power Lifting Association	531
Northern Territory Area Scout Association	27,400
Northern Territory Baseball League	3,000
Northern Territory Ballet Association	1,000
Northern Territory Cricket Association	2,240
Northern Territory Council of Social Service	6,075
Northern Territory Council on the Ageing	24,400
Northern Territory Darts Council	5,170
Northern Territory Eisteddfod Council	2,500
Northern Territory Football League	400
Northern Territory Hockey Association	900
Northern Territory Inter-town Chess	500
Northern Territory Junior Soccer Federation	2,140
Northern Territory Laser Association	790
Northern Territory Marching Girls Association	480
Northern Territory Netball Association	500
Northern Territory Pensioners Association	500
Northern Territory Rachuig Committee	3,840
Northern Territory Region Girl Guides	12,000
Northern Territory Schools and Junior Rugby Union Inc	2,130
Northern Territory Soccer Federation	1,500
Northern Territory Softball Association	1,500
Northern Territory Squash Racquets Association	3,453
Northern Territory Table Tennis Association	1,800
Northern Territory Tennis Association	400
Northern Territory Womens Soccer Federation	2,500
Parents Without Partners	2,750
Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Association of Alice Springs Inc	6,000

		$
	Rehabilitation Association of the Northern Territory	6,000
	Salvation Army Alice Springs	6,000
	St Marys Primary School Choir	1,500
	St Vincent de Paul Society Alice Springs	7,200
	St Vincent de Paul Society Darwin	10,000
	Tennant Creek Baseball Association	1,500
	Tennant Creek Clay Shooting Club	2,000
	Tennant Creek Community Development Council	19,850
	Tennant Creek Speedway	2,500
	Tennant Creek Theatrical Club	425
	Tennant Creek Womens Bowling Club	400
	Waratah Sports Club	5,500
	Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Association	6,750
	Y.M.C.A. Alice Springs	9,000
	Y.M.C.A. Darwin	24,000
	Y.M.C.A. Talc Head Camp	12,500
	Y.W.C.A. Darwin - Youth Refuge	1,980
*	Y.W.C.A. Darwin	15,488

* Y.W.C.A. also in receipt of Community Worker Subsidy of $8,500.00 p.a.

1011 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Which church organisations received the loans now administered by the Community Welfare Division?

2. What are the terms of those loans?

ANSWER

The following church organisations have received loans under the scheme:

1. Aborigines Inland Mission received 2 loans for Retta Dixon Homes, Darwin. These loans have been repaid in full.

2. The United Evangelical Lutheran Church has received a loan for a children's home in Alice Springs. Approximately $44,500 is outstanding against the loan.

3. The Presbyterian Church (NSW) Property Trust (now the Uniting Church) has received 4 loans. Two of these loans were for Warrawee Children's Hospital in Adelaide which have since been discharged and 2 loans were made in relation to St Phillip's College in Alice Springs. Approx. $293,000 remains outstanding against these loans.

4. The United Church in North Australia received one loan in relation to Griffith's House, Alice Springs. This loan has now been discharged.

5. The Church of England, Carpentaria College Inc. received 3 loans in relation to Carpentaria College, Darwin. These have subsequently been extinguished following the surrender of the property.

6. The Methodist Overseas Mission now part of the Uniting Church received one loan in relation to Sommerville Homes in Darwin. There is approx. $260,000 outstanding against this loan.

7. The Catholic Church has received 3 loans, one in relation to St John's College, Darwin, which has approx. $207,500 outstanding; one in relation to Bakhita Village, Darwin, which has approx. $317,500 outstanding, one in relation to Salonika Girls Hostel which has approx. $406,000 outstanding.

8. The YWCA has received 3 loans; one in relation to the Darwin Hostel which has approx. $430,000 outstanding, 2 in relation to the Alice Springs Hostel which has approx. $268,000 outstanding.

9. The YMCA has received one loan in relation to their hostel in Darwin. Approx. $687,000 is outstanding on this loan.

10. The Church of England has received one loan in relation to "The Lodge" hostel in Alice Springs. Approx. $376,000 is outstanding against this loan.

11. The North Australian Baptist Homes Trust has received 3 loans in relation to hostels in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs. Negotiations are presently taking place regarding the surrender of these properties.

No loans have been issue since 1976.

2. Finance was available at 1% per annum with a maximum repayment term of 60 years.

1013 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Will the government be placing topsoil over the old cyclone garbage dump at Kulaluk and planting lawns in order to make the area useable?

2. Is the government content with the minuscule rehabilitation efforts made along the line of the sewerage pipes through Kulaluk which destroyed rain forest drainage patterns;and will it do more to aid rehabilitation in this area?

3. Will the government survey the damage done to the natural drainage and tidal flows of the Kulaluk area by sewerage works and the resulting death and changes to native vegetation there, with a view to deciding proper rehabilitative action?

4. Will the government urgently assist in the clean-up of old refuse dumps and mining in the Kulaluk area now while the area has been burned off with a view to creating fire protection lines to protect the remnant rain forest habitat of this area?

ANSWER

The Kulaluk special purpose lease has been registered and issued to Mr Bobby Secretary, President of the Gwalwa Daraniki Association and the development of this parcel of land will be in accord with the wishes of the Kulaluk people.

The Department of Aboriginal Affairs is presently working with the Kulaluk people in the compilation of an overall development plan for the whole area which takes into consideration the matters you have raised. At the same time the NT government has offered assistance to the Kulaluk people by way of making appropriate officers available to give advice where required on the development plan.

1019 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the electrical wiring of houses at Duck Creek be completed to enable proper use to be made of the generators and power lines already supplied?

ANSWER

This work has been completed.

1020 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Who was responsible for the organisation of the design/construct competition for the museum and art gallery?

ANSWER

Department of Transport and Works as the Northern Territory government construction authority was responsible for the organisation of the design/construct competition for the museum and art gallery.

1021 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Who chose the judging panel for the museum and art gallery competition, and who were its members?

ANSWER

The judging panel was chosen by Cabinet. The members, apart from myself, were Minister for Transport and Works, Hon. Roger Steele, Chairman of Museums and Art Galleries Board, Mr Justice Forster.

1022 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Were all panel members present during the oral presentations by the competing firms in the museum and art gallery competition and, if not, who were the substitutes for panel members and for what parts of the presentations were they present?

ANSWER

Hon. Roger Steele was present during all 4 oral presentations. I was present for the 2 presentations during the morning session and was represented by my deputy, Mr J. Larcombe, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Community Development in the afternoon. Mr Justice Forster was unable to be present and was represented by his deputy Dr Colin Jack-Hinton.

1023 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(a) Which panel members and/or substitutes were present when the decision was made to allow John Holland (Constructions) Pty Ltd to revise its design for the museum and art gallery after the initial assessment?

(b) When was that decision made?

ANSWER

(a) The following panel members were present when the decision was made to allow John Holland's to revise its design :

Hon. Roger Steele;
Mr Jack Larcombe (deputising for me); and
Dr Colin Jack-Hinton (deputising for Mr Justice Forster).

(b) The decision was made on 7 June 1979, the day after the oral presentations.

1024 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Were any other of the competing firms apart from John Holland (Constructions) Pty Ltd given the opportunity to revise their designs for the museum and art gallery after the initial assessment and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

The John Holland submission conformed more closely with the intent and function of the complex than any other entry and was the preferred architectural solution. Provided they were able to make the necessary revisions their design would be selected. The panel therefore considered that it would be unfair to ask other competitors to revise their designs until Holland's demonstrated their inability to do so. This decision was taken in recognition of the considerable expense already incurred by the contestants, and was intended to avoid further costs being incurred by contestants having no possibility of success.

1025 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did the original John Holland (Constructions) Pty Ltd design for the museum and art gallery vary from the brief in that it did not include a theatrette?

ANSWER

The original John Holland design included a multi-purpose educational area in lieu of a theatrette which the designers believed would satisfy the needs of the museum and art gallery. This was not the case and was one of the functional revisions required to satisfy the judges.

1026 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did the original John Holland (Constructions) Pty Ltd design for the museum and art gallery provide less area than required by the brief?

ANSWER

The brief specified the optimum area for the museum and art gallery as 9,000 square metres, with an absolute minimum of 6,000 square metres. At over 7,800 square metres, the John Holland design was well within these limits.

1027 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Was the original John Holland (Constructions) Pty Ltd scheme for the museum and art gallery closer to the beach than all other submissions despite instructions in the design brief that the foreshore should not be disturbed?

ANSWER

The brief made no stipulation as regards location of the complex on the site. The brief required the building to be of low profile, blending with the terrain and its immediate environment, taking advantage of the natural slope of the site. It was left to the competitors to locate their building anywhere on the site provided it was above the primary surge line. In fact, the closest any building is to the boundary along the foreshore is 40 metres which is considered to be an adequate buffer zone. The brief did refer to not disturbing the foreshore by landscaping and in this regard the Holland's submission is fully conforming.

1028 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will siting of the museum and art gallery close to the foreshore result in considerable amount of fill being required?

ANSWER

The sloping nature of the site resulted in all submissions having some degree of cut and fill. It is usual for the earthworks to roughly balance out, this being the most economical method and John Holland's submission is no exception. As previously stated, all building works are at least 40 metres from the boundary of the site on the foreshore side and it is not proposed to place any fill in this corridor.

1029 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(a) Did any departmental officers provide advice to the museum and art gallery competition judging panel and, if so, who were they, and on what matters did they advise the panel?

(b) If the answer to (a) is yes, why was this necessary in view of the fact that a leading Australian architect, Mr Bryce Mortlock, was available to provide expert advice to the panel?

ANSWER

Senior professional officers of the Department of Transport and Works prepared analyses of specialised technical areas of all submissions and their reports were co-ordinated through the Design Manager to Mr Bryce Mortlock. No advice was provided direct to the judges by these officers and sole comment on the aesthetics of the designs was made by Mr Bryce Mortlock.

1030 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did Mr Bryce Mortlock advise the museum and art gallery competition judging panel that the initial John Holland (Constructions) Pty Ltd design was superior to all others?

ANSWER

Yes. Mr Mortlock did advise the panel that the intial John Holland design was superior to the others.

1031 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did Mr Bryce Mortlock recommend that John Holland Construction Pty Ltd be invited to revise its initial submission on the design of the museum and art gallery?

ANSWER

Yes. Mr Mortlock recommended that John Holland's be invited to revise their internal functional arrangement of areas without damaging the integrity of their design.

1032 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did Mr Bryce Mortlock recommend that other candidates be invited to revise their submissions on the design of the museum and art gallery?

ANSWER

Mr Mortlock indicated that, in the unlikely event of John Holland's not being able to satisfactorily revise their design, it would be desirable to invite other competitors to do so.

1033 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is Mr Bryce Mortlock's written advice to the museum and art gallery competition judging panel available to be seen by me or other members of the Legislative Assembly?

ANSWER

The written comments by Mr Mortlock to the judges are in the form of a critique. I have no objection to making the critique available for your perusal on a personal and confidential basis.

1034 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did Mr Bryce Mortlock examine the revised submission of John Holland (Constructions) Pty Ltd to the museum and art gallery competition judging panel?

ANSWER

Yes. Mr Mortlock made a special return visit on 22 June to examine the revised submission.

1035 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When was the final decision made by the museum and art gallery competition judging panel to accept the revised John Holland (Constructions) Pty Ltd design?

ANSWER

The final decision was made at a composite meeting of Cabinet and the judging panel on 23 June, at which Mr Mortlock was invited to report on each of the submissions.

1036 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Which museum and art gallery competition judging panel members and/or substitutes were present when the final decision was made to accept the revised John Holland (Constructions) Pty Ltd design?

ANSWER

The following panel members were present when the final decision was made:

Hon. Roger Steele; Dr Colin Jack-Hinton (deputising for Mr Justice Forster); and myself.

1052 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is he aware of the activities of the Yipirinya School at Alice Springs and, if so, what help does the Education Department propose to give to the school?

2. Is it a fact that the Education Department has prohibited mention of this school on the Aboriginal program on radio 8HA and, if so, why?

ANSWER

Both the department and I have, for some time now, been communicating with the Yipirinya School Council about the form of education which would best suit the circumstances.

In correspondence with the council, it has been indicated that modifications to normal school arrangements can be made.

The department has also offered to establish a series of out-lying classes which would be annexes of an existing school, such as Traegar Park Primary School, and provide teachers to work in the camp areas with younger children.

I have spoken with the Chairman of the Council and advised him that, while I recognise the right of groups to seek to establish independent schools under the Northern Territory Education Act, there are many financial and administrative difficulties associated with their particular proposal.

Officers of the department will continue efforts to draw up an educational program of high quality in a form appropriate and acceptable to the people concerned.

Through the Technical and Further Education Branch, the department sponsors an Aboriginal program weekly on radio station 8HA. Mention of the Yipirinya School has not been specifically omitted. There has been no directive issued prohibiting broadcasting of Yipirinya news items.

1054 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Have the creditors of the Roper River community store, who were owed $167,000, been paid and under what system does this community now operate its store?

2. Are there debts remaining and, if so, how will they be paid?

3. Are the books of community stores audited?

4. What steps have been taken to prevent a repetition of losses in community stores?

ANSWER

1. The majority of creditors of the Roper River community store have been paid, but there are a number of additional debts incurred after the initial backlog of creditors was cleared. The community now operates its store under a private agreement between itself and a business firm from Katherine. Under this arrangement, the community has relinquished responsibility for the store and, in exchange, receives a monthly payment from the businessman for the right to operate the consumer store at Roper River.

2. The department has calculated that there is approximately $37,070 outstanding to current trade creditors. In view of the high level of assistance provided to the store over the past years from the Aborigines Benefits Trust Fund and the Aboriginal Loans Commission, it is unlikely that further assistance will be provided from these sources. The department takes the view that the outstanding creditors should be paid by the community utilising the money it receives under the agreement reached between it and the Katherine businessman.

3. Yes. The last set of audited accounts prepared for the Roper River Citizens Club (the operator of the store) covered the period 12 February 1978 to 3 April 1979, and showed a substantial loss for that period.

4. Community stores are an independent operation and, as such, do not come directly under the control of this department. There is, however, a great deal of concern within the department and in the Northern Territory Department of Community Development at the level of losses being sustained by a number of stores in Aboriginal communities. Several possible solutions have been identified, but their introduction will be dependent upon their acceptance by the communities concerned. It should be noted, however, that recent policy decisions of the Aboriginals Benefit Trust Account have made it unlikely that further financial assistance from this source will be available to community stores which incur substantial losses. One solution to the problem is of course the one adopted in respect of the Roper River community store, as this arrangement assures the community of a well-stocked and well-run store and a guaranteed level of income by way of rental payments.

1057 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Was the meeting of cattlemen, held in Katherine on 29 October 1979, called to allow the Bureau of Animal Health to put a case for the eradication of brucellosis and tuberculosis or to allow cattlemen to discuss the 4 options put forward by the cattle industry?

2. Did it achieve either purpose?

ANSWER

1. The meeting of the cattlemen held in Katherine on 29 October 1979 was called by the NT Cattle Producers Council, the Australian Bureau of Animal Health and the Northern Territory Department of Primary Production. It was convened by these 3 organisations to discuss the difficulties for cattlemen in eradicating tuberculosis and brucellosis in the remote areas of Australia. An earlier meeting was held in Alice Springs on 28 October to discuss the problems of the Barkly Tableland

and Alice Springs districts, and the one on 29 October was more specifically to discuss the difficulties in the Top End.

The meeting was very well attended by cattlemen in a wide area. It was chaired by Mr Tony Hooper of the Division of Agriculture and Stock along with Dr Leith Andrews of the Bureau of Animal Health and Mr Bill de Vos of the NT Cattle Producers Council.

Dr Andrews presented a paper prepared by the Bureau of Animal Health in consultation with veterinary officers from various remote areas of Australia.

Dr Andrews described the possible situation in the future which could arise when countries that import our beef become free of tuberculosis and brucellosis. He referred particularly to the United States. He said that while there is no absolute proof that these countries will totally ban the imports of our beef, we are already seeing evidence that they should be quite stringent. A recent example included the rejection of milk products to the United States from properties affected with brucellosis.

Four options for disease eradication were put to the meeting by Dr Andrews and I assume that these are the options mentioned in the question. The options could be applied separately or in conjunction, and consist of:

(a) whole herd testing;

(b) part herd testing, concentrating on younger cattle only and separating them from the older cattle;

(c) an extension of (b) which is to test weaner animals only and separate them from older stock; or

(d) destocking the entire herds and restocking with disease free cattle.

Thus, to actually specifically answer the honourable member's question, it would be correct to say that both the case for the eradication of the 2 diseases and the 4 options for disease eradication were put to the meeting.

2. The meeting achieved its purpose in that a large number of cattlemen attended and expressed their opinions about their problems. Cattlemen from different areas have different problems. Some can see that they will have successful programs and will achieve good progress by 1984. Others can see little hope of having sufficient finance and sufficient control of their herds to justify practical eradication campaigns. The meeting was successful in that it was a start towards more detailed analyses of every individual cattleman's problems in their stations.

1058 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Did the Fisheries Division examine the economics and purpose of the fish farm at Kununurra before recommending against the establishment of barramundi hatcheries in the Territory?

ANSWER

The Fisheries Division has not recommended against an examination of the feasibility and practicability of establishing a barramundi hatchery in the Territory.

When information has been sought by members of the public on this matter, the Fisheries Division have given consolidated advice incorporating information available from Australian research (including that which was conducted at Kununurra) together with the latest information from overseas research.

Acknowledging the importance of fisheries (both marine and fresh-water) to the primary economy of the Territory and the need to fully develop and manage existing and potential new fish resources, a watching brief is being kept on aquaculture developments, including barramundi hatcheries, at this juncture.

1059 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Will he have swimming pools built at each of the schools in Katherine to enable children to learn swimming and life saving as part of their education?

2. In considering this proposal will he take into account the opposition which many ratepayers have to the idea of a town swimming pool?

ANSWER

1. No. It is not the policy of the Education Department to provide swimming pools on school sites.

2. I understand the Department of Community Development has been given approval to enter into discussions with the Katherine Corporation on joint funding arrangements for the construction of a swimming pool.

1060 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is it a fact that efforts to provide Katherine and district with low cost LP gas supplies are being hindered by an Aboriginal land claim over the site chosen for a gas depot?

ANSWER

The short answer to the honourable member's question is "No".

A Katherine resident applied for part of the old Katherine Railway Reserve for use as a bulk storage site for LP gas.

The block sought was formerly affected by an Aboriginal land claim but the claim was superseded when the Katherine Town Planning Region was gazetted.

I am not aware of any other current proposal for the bulk storage of LP gas at Katherine.

1091 Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

(a) What is the current waiting time for Housing Commission homes and flats in Darwin and Alice Springs?

(b) Is any information available concerning the waiting time for Commission houses and flats in the suburbs of Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney and, if so, what is the waiting time for Commission flats and houses in the suburbs of these capitals?

ANSWER

(a) The current waiting times for NTHC accommodation in Darwin and Alice Springs are as follows:

	Public	Staff	
DARWIN		Bedsitter	Indefinite
1 BR	3 months	1 BR	36 months
2 BR	7- 9 months	2 BR	9-11 months
3 BR	12-15 months	3 BR	12 months
4 BR	18 months	4 BR	15 months
		Executive	Depends on vacates
ALICE SPRINGS			
		Bedsitter	10 months
1 BR	12-18 months	1 BR	12-18 months
2 BR	6 months	2 BR	12 months
3 BR	9 months	3 BR	18 months
4 BR	18 months	4 BR	18 months
		Executive	Indefinite

(b) Detailed information on waiting times in other capital cities is not readily available and would vary greatly depending on location and type of dwelling, however, a general average is:

Victoria	3 years
New South Wales	4 years
South Australia	4 years
Western Australia	3 years

1117 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that on the inaugural journey of the Darwin-New Guinea shipping route, a number of NT buffaloes were found to have TB? If so, what was the origin of the buffaloes and what steps have been taken to assure our trading partners, especially New Guinea, that this will not recur?

ANSWER

The incident to which reference is made in the question was not associated with the inauguration of the Papua New Guinea shipping service.

However, when a consignment of buffaloes from Darwin arrived in Papua New Guinea in late 1978, tuberculosis was found to be present in some of the animals.

These buffaloes originated from a number of properties in the Darwin area. They were taken to a central point where a tuberculosis test was applied and reactors removed before shipment.

On arrival in Papua New Guinea, another tuberculosis test was applied and further reactors were identified.

It is not unusual for buffaloes which have been subjected to the stresses of mustering, transporting and yarding to produce a false negative response to an initial tuberculosis test.

The government is concerned that trade with Papua New Guinea and the new shipping service which will help develop commerce between the Territory and Papua New Guinea, should not be jeopardised.

Discussions have been held with Papua New Guinea veterinary authorities and agreement has been reached on testing procedures which should prevent a recurrence.

1118 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Did the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation grant special quotas to North Australian meatworks in 1979, as the Australian Meat Board had done, to overcome geographical difficulties?

2. What quotas in tonnes were granted to each meatworks, including William Angliss?

ANSWER

1. I assume that the question refers to quotas for the North Australian Meatworks to the United States market. My information is that the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation did grant special quotas to North Australian Meatworks in 1979.

2. The actual quotas in tonnes to each meatworks is confidential between the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation and the individual companies concerned. My information is that total tonnage for the Northern Meatworks was about 13,000 tonnes.

1119 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will cattle holding facilities be established at the Darwin wharf and cattle loading facilities improved?

Will general unloading facilities be improved?

ANSWER

Please refer to the answer given to Question No. 937.

1120 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Did the Chief Veterinary Officer, Mr D. Newton-Tabrett, tell the cattle industry meeting at Katherine recently that if Australian beef was banned from the US it would be because of brucellosis and not tuberculosis?

2. If this is a fact, will all cattle slaughtered in the Northern Territory have blood samples taken in an endeavour to locate areas where the disease is prevalent?

3. Does he agree with the Canberra based Bureau of Animal Health that brucellosis will be eradicated in the Territory by 1984?

ANSWER

1. At the cattle industry meeting recently held in Katherine, the Chief Veterinary Officer, Mr D. Newton-Tabrett, indicated that in his opinion it would be more probable that Australian beef would be restricted to the United States because of brucellosis. Either disease, however, could be the cause of restrictions.

2. Both diseases, brucellosis and tuberculosis, are being closely monitored in slaughtered cattle in the Northern Territory. Female cattle and bulls are being blood sampled and recorded at slaughter and cattle with tuberculosis lesions are being identified and recorded.

3. Mr Newton-Tabrett agrees with Canberra based Bureau of Animal Health that brucellosis should be eradicated to the stage of Provisional Freedom in the Territory by 1984.

1121 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Are government departmental caravans parked on residential blocks in Katherine to avoid keeping them in caravan parks or because of the shortage of serviced land?

ANSWER

In order to reply it will be necessary to be provided with details of the departments and blocks referred to in the question.

1122 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the tax on toilet facilities in Katherine continue through the tourist off season?

ANSWER

See answer to Question No. 941.

1140 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the Territory Development Corporation's "Detailed Investigation into Tourist Needs Throughout the NT" been completed; and, if not, when will it be completed?

2. When will the corporation's report be produced and will the report be made public?

3. What areas have been surveyed?

4. Has the corporation sought the views of Aboriginal groups and organisations and, if not, will the minister ensure that it does?

ANSWER

1. The Northern Territory Development Corporation, in conjunction with the Northern Territory Tourist Board, has commenced a detailed investigation into tourist needs throughout the Territory. The investigation - a 100% coverage survey of tourist accommodation outlets and the views and attitudes of the proprietors of those outlets - is being determined.

   The second stage, a visitor attitudinal survey, is subject to current planning. This survey is likely to take up to 12 months to complete. However, the information collected on an on-going basis will be of use to the in-coming Tourist Commissioner as it is collected.

2. Because the overall survey is not complete, the corporation does not intend at this stage to produce a formal report. However, the statistical results of the Tourist Accommodation Outlet Survey are readily available from the corporation now.

3. Covered above.

4. The views of Aboriginal groups and organisations, except when relevant to those parts of the overall survey referred to above, have not been sought at this stage. In proceeding with the survey, however, it will clearly be necessary for the Territory Development Corporation and the Tourist Commission to solicit extensive and comprehensive views from all persons and organisations directly or indirectly involved in Territory tourism in order to ensure that government involvement in the development of the industry is to the greatest benefit of all Territorians. Indeed, the greatest contribution can be expected from the Tourism Advisory Council which does include representatives from the Central, Northern and Tiwi Land Councils.

1141 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Will he supply a copy of the instructions given to the police for the arrest and treatment of persons "for protective custody", including the measures taken to ensure that those arrested are aware of their rights?

2. What measures are taken to ensure that the police do not misuse their powers of arrest under "protective custody"?

ANSWER

1. The original provisions concerning protective custody were contained in section 33A of the Police and Police Offences Act. The relevant provisions are now in sections 128 to 133 of the Police Administration Act.

   Circular Memorandum No. 29 of 1976 was distributed on 30 December 1976 relating to the Police and Police Offences Act provisions. Those instructions are still applied to the Police Administration Act provisions.

   Differences between the provisions of the two acts were set out in a training booklet and distributed to members prior to the commencement of the Police Administration Act.

   A copy of the memorandum and the extract from the training booklet is supplied for the information of the honourable member.

2. The terms of the legislation and the circular memorandum are protection against misuse of powers of arrest for protective custody. Persons in protective custody are informed of their rights should they inquire or if they indicate any objection to apprehension and detention. Additionally, senior members check prisoners and records to ensure the correct exercise of power under those provisions.

APPENDIX "A"

Division 4 - Apprehension without Arrest

128.(1) Where a member of the Police Force has reasonable grounds for believing that a person is intoxicated with alcohol or a drug and that that person is -

(a) in a public place, or trespassing on private property; and

(b) because of his intoxicated condition, likely to -

(i) commit an offence;

(ii) use physical force against another person;

(iii) cause damage to the property of another person;

(iv) intimidate, alarm or cause substantial annoyance to another person;

(v) unreasonably disrupt the privacy of another person;

(vi) cause bodily harm to himself or expose himself to bodily harm;

(vii) expose himself to having an offence committed upon or against him; or

(viii) be unable to adequately care for himself and is not likely to be adequately cared for by any other person,

the member may, without warrant, apprehend and take that person into custody.

(2) For the purposes of carrying out his duties under sub-section (1), a member may, without warrant, enter upon private property.

(3) A member of the Police Force who takes a person into custody under sub-section (1) may -

(a) search or cause to be searched that person; and

(b) remove or cause to be removed from that person for safe keeping until the person is released from custody, any money or valuables that are found on or about that person and any item on or about that person that is likely to cause harm to that person or any other person or that could be used by that person or any other person to cause harm to himself or another.

(4) For the purposes of sub-section (3), the person of a woman shall not be searched except by a woman.

(5) All money or valuables taken from a person under sub-section (3) shall be recorded in a register kept for that purpose and shall be returned to that person on receipt of a signature or other mark made by that person in the register.

129.(1) Subject to this Division, a person who has been apprehended and taken into custody under section 128 shall be held in the custody of a member of the Police Force, but only for so long as it reasonably appears to the member of the Police Force in whose custody he is held that the person remains intoxicated.

(2) Subject to this Division, where it reasonably appears to a member of the Police Force in whose custody a person is held at the time

under this section that the person is no longer intoxicated, the member shall, without any further or other authority than this sub-section, release that person or cause him to be released from custody without his entering into any recognizance or bail.

(3) A person who has been taken into custody under this section and who is in custody after midnight and before half past 7 o'clock in the morning on that day, may be held in custody until half past 7 o'clock in the morning on that day, notwithstanding that the person is no longer intoxicated.

130.(1) A person in custody after apprehension under section 128 -

(a) shall not be charged with an offence;

(b) shall not be questioned by a member in relation to an offence; and

(c) shall not be photographed or have his fingerprints taken.

(2) Where a person is questioned in contravention of sub-section (1)(b) any answers which he may give to any such question shall be inadmissible in evidence against him in any proceedings.

131.(1) The member of the Police Force in whose custody a person is held under this Division may, at any time, without any further or other authority than this sub-section, release that person or cause him to be released without his entering into a recognizance or bail, into the care of a person who the member reasonably believes is a person capable of taking adequate care of that person.

(2) A person in custody shall not be released under sub-section (1) into the care of another person if the person in custody objects to being released into the care of that person.

132.(1) If, after a period of 6 hours after a person has been taken into custody under section 128, it reasonably appears to the member of the Police Force in whose custody he is held that the grounds for the apprehension and taking into custody continue, the member of the Police Force shall bring the person, as soon as practicable, unless sooner released under this Division, before a justice.

(2) Where a person is brought before a justice under sub-section (1), the justice shall -

(a) if it appears to him that the grounds on which the person was apprehended no longer exist - order the release of the person from custody; or

(b) if it appears to him that the grounds on which the person was apprehended continue - give such directions as he thinks fit to a member of the Police Force for the safety and welfare of the person including, if he thinks fit, keeping him in the custody of a member of the Police Force (but only for so long as it reasonably appears to the member of the Police Force in whose custody he is held at the time that those grounds continue) or releasing him from custody.

133.(1) A person apprehended under section 128 may, at any time after such apprehension, request a member to take him before a justice in order that the person may make an application to the justice for his release.

(2) Where a request is made of a member under sub-section (1) he shall, if it is reasonably practicable for the person to be brought before a justice forthwith, bring the person, or cause the person to be brought, before the justice forthwith.

APPENDIX "B"

PROTECTIVE CUSTODY

The 'Protective Custody' sections in the Police and Police Offences Act and Police Administration Act are almost identical. However, there are a number of quite important differences and these are listed.

POLICE AND POLICE OFFENCES ACT	POLICE ADMINISTRATION ACT
Section 33A Apprehension of Drunken Person Without Warrant	Section 128-133 Apprehension Without Arrest
Sub-Section (4) a person shall not be charged with an offence while he is in custody after apprehension under this section, but nothing in this section prevents a person from being apprehended and charged with an offence after his release from custody under this section.	Section 130 (1) A person in custody after apprehension under Section 128- (a) shall not be charged with an offence; (b) shall not be questioned by a member in relation to an offence; and (c) shall not be photographed or have his fingerprints taken. (2) Where a person is questioned in contravention of sub-section (1)(b) any answers which he may give to any such question shall be inadmissable in evidence against him in any proceedings.
NO EQUIVALENT	Section 131 (1) A person apprehended under Section 128 may, at any time after such apprehension, request a member to take him before a justice in order that the person may make an application to the Justice for his release. (2) Where a request is made of a member under sub-section (1) he shall, if it is reasonably practicable for the person to be brought before a Justice forthwith, bring the person, or cause the person to be brought, before a Justice forthwith unless sooner released.
Sub-Section (7) A member of the Police Force who refuses or fails to comply with a requirement of this section or with a direction given under sub-section (6) is guilty of a neglect of duty punishable as provided by this Ordinance.	NO EQUIVALENT SECTION

APPENDIX "C"

Police Headquarters,
DARWIN, N.T.
30 December 1976

CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM No. 29 of 1976:

DRUNKENNESS - PROTECTIVE CUSTODY PROVISIONS -
SECTION 33A, POLICE AND POLICE OFFENCES ORDINANCE

Special Circular dated 9 July 1974 and Circular Memorandum 1/1975 are cancelled.

The relevant part of Section 33A of the Police and Police Offences Ordinance reads:

"Where a member of the Police Force has reasonable grounds for believing that a person is intoxicated with alcohol or a drug and that person is -

(a) in a public place, or trespassing on private property; and

(b) because of his intoxicated condition, likely to -

(i) commit an offence;
(ii) use physical force against another person;
(iii) cause damage to the property of another person;
(iv) intimidate, alarm or cause substantial annoyance to another person;
(v) unreasonably disrupt the privacy of another person;
(vi) cause bodily harm to himself or expose himself to bodily harm;
(vii) expose himself to having an offence committed upon or against him; or
(viii) be unable to adequately care for himself and is not likely to be adequately cared for by any other person;

the member may without warrant apprehend and take that person into custody."

Members who apprehend persons under the above provisions are required to enter particulars of the category of 33A(b)(i) to (viii) under which the apprehended person is taken into custody. This is to be recorded immediately under the name of the person apprehended, for example -

Fred JONES
Intoxicated with alcohol/drug and likely to expose himself to bodily harm.

John GREEN
Intoxicated with alcohol/drug and likely to cause damage to property of another person.

If any intoxicated person commits an offence under any other law, action is to be taken in relation to that specific offence and not use Section 33A as a substitute.

In addition to the necessary Station entries, members are to record in their note books particulars of circumstances surrounding the apprehension of persons under Section 33A, sufficient to enable details to be recalled by the member at a later date.

Supervisors are to ensure that this instruction is to be complied with by all members at all times.

(Sgd) W.J. McLAREN
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

INDEX HEADINGS:

1. Drunkenness - Protective Custody.
2. Protective Custody Provisions.
3. Police Offences Ordinance - Section 33A.

1184 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

Could the Treasurer advise the Assembly as to the amount of the Treasurer's advance spent in the first 3 months of the financial year 1979-80 and also the nature of that expenditure?

ANSWER

The appropriation included in the Supply Act 1979-80 against Advance to the Treasurer was $1,490,000.

During the period 1 July 1979 to 28 September 1979, $478,000 was issued from Advance to the Treasurer to cover expenditure proposals provided in the Budget but not specifically included in the Supply Act. This is a normal occurence as the Supply Act is traditionally based around the levels of expenditure in the previous year. Upon assent to the Appropriation Act (No.1) 1979-80 on 28 September, all advances issued from Advance to the Treasurer lapsed.

At 30 September, no expenditure had been incurred against the Advance to the Treasurer of $12,251,000 included in the Appropriation Act (No.1) 1979-80.

1208 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What percentage of appeals against provisional promotions in the NTPS, from 1/7/78 to 30/6/79, have been successful?

ANSWER

14.7 per cent. The reply needs the following qualifications -

1. Only promotions attracting active (i.e. non-protective) appeals have been considered.

2. In the case of multiple promotions and/or appeals each promotion appealed against is counted except where one appellant against a number of promotions is successful in one appeal. For example where one appellant against 3 promotions is unsuccessful in all 3, then 3 unsuccessful appeals are counted but where one of these appeals is allowed, then one successful appeal is counted and the other promotions are ignored.

1209 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Under what conditions and which crops will be covered by operations of the Crop Development Scheme for 1979-80?

2. What staff is available to service this scheme?

3. What markets are available for crops grown in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

1. The conditions which will apply to the operations of the Crop Development Scheme for the 1980 season are those which were recommended by the Crop Development Committee with respect to infrastructural development at Adelaide River and subsidies to assist farmers. The progress of the Crop Development Scheme in 1979 as well as the background to the incentives now offered are laid out in the Crop Development Committee Report.

2. Staff to service the scheme comprise officers of the agriculture, scientific services and economics/marketing sections of the Division of Agriculture and Stock. In addition, producers may contact representatives of the Crop Development Committee for assistance.

3. For the 1979-80 season all maize and sorghum produced will be marketed to feed users in the Northern Territory. Outlets for peanuts and mungbeans have been found through the Queensland Peanut Marketing Board and the WA (Ord) Producers' Co-operative. The Crop Development Committee considered that no further crops to those previously supported should be added to the scheme.

1211 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What stage has been reached in the recommissioning of the North Australia Railway?

ANSWER

The Commonwealth government has agreed to our proposals that:

- we jointly undertake a study into the benefits and costs of a standard gauge rail link between Alice Springs and Darwin; and
- the Australian National Railways identify the corridor for this railway so that the land can be reserved.

Work has commenced on both subjects.

The joint study team of Mr Grant Taylor, Commonwealth Department of Transport and Mr Bill Foo, Department of Transport and Works are expected to have their report completed by the end of the year.

The Chief Minister has written to the Prime Minister urging a Commonwealth commitment to commence construction of the rail link within 5 years.

1212 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. How much meat meal is used annually in stock feeds made in and imported into the Northern Territory?

2. How much land would it take to produce the grains contained in the stock feeds consumed annually in the Northern Territory - including fowl feed, pig feed, &c.?

ANSWER

1. In 1978, 562 tonnes of Northern Territory meat and bone meal and 502 tonnes of imported protein concentrates were used as feed ingredients in the Northern Territory.

2. Some 3,500 tonnes of grains and grain by-products were imported into the Northern Territory in 1978 for incorporation in stockfeeds. This tonnage could be produced off 2,000 - 3,000 hectares depending on yields achieved for the various crops.

1215 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

In respect of former mining tenements identified by numbers 1K and 7K -

(a) what was the reason for the acquisition of these tenements by the Territory Parks and Wildlife Service; and

(b) what was the cost of the acquisition?

ANSWER

Mining tenements 1K and 7K are situated at Oolloo Crossing on the Daly River. They were purchased on behalf of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission in June 1979 at a price of $20,000.

The acquisition of this land by the commission is in keeping with proposals to establish a Daly River wild river concept. This involves the provision of access to and camping areas on the river at a number of locations and the conservation of the river and its banks.

At the present time, the only access to the river system under the control of the commission is through the Katherine Gorge and Low Level areas and at the Daly River Crossing. The acquisition of this area provides a very valuable third access to the river. It is also in close proximity to the existing Douglas River Hot Springs Reserve and the Butterfly Gorge.

1216 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is power generated at the Katherine powerhouse sufficient to supply the 15-mile Experiment Farm, the Katherine Gorge and the 14-mile caves?

Is it feasible to supply these government-controlled operations from Katherine and eliminate small, costly generators at each site?

ANSWER

Power generated from the Katherine power station is sufficient to supply the load at the nominated areas but the following work would be required -

15-mile Experimental Farm:	Construction of 15 miles of 22kV overhead at an estimated total cost of $100,000. This 22 kV overhead would service the experimental farm plus 3 families.
Katherine Gorge:	Construction of 19 miles of 11kV overhead at an estimated total cost of $161,000. This 11 kV overhead would service the ranger at the Katherine Gorge together with the kiosk and caravan park.
14 mile Caves:	This will require an extension of the 11 kV system from Tindal, a distance of 6 miles at an estimated total cost of $35,000. This 11 kV overhead would service the 2 rangers' houses.

The feasibility of these extensions must be related to further development within the nominated areas and it is possible that the small generating systems can be dispensed with at the expense of large capital costs to extend the Katherine distribution system to what is now a very small number of consumers.

1217 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In the Animal Production Branch section of the Department of Primary Production's Division of Agriculture and Stock handbook mention is made of research programs and investigation of buffalo husbandry. Can the Minister give me details of this and its practical applications to farmers?

ANSWER

Investigations into buffalo husbandry undertaken by the Department of Primary Production have included:

in feral populations:

calving, predation, age structure, food and grazing, water and wallows, movements and distribution

in domestic herds:

domestication, branding and tattooing, dehorning, behaviour, handling and fencing

weaning, castration, mating/calving times, fertility, survival, heat tolerance and wallows

grazing habits, pasture utilisation, growth rates, feed lot performance, performance relative to Brahman/Shorthorn cross cattle, carcass composition.

The information obtained from these studies will have practical application in:

the management of feral buffalo populations;

defining the role of commercial buffalo production in the Territory economy;

the establishment and operation of commercial buffalo enterprises;

developing any regulatory measures considered necessary to protect the buffalo industry.

1219 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What population of Darwin and environs will the Darwin River Dam and the Manton River Dam be able to support -

(a) with no regulation; and

(b) with regulation?

ANSWER

No mandatory restrictions are contemplated.
With no conservation a population of 86,000 could be supplied.
With voluntary restraint this would rise to 92,000.

1220 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it the intention of the Northern Territory government to establish or to encourage establishment of a marine park for the enjoyment by tourists and the Northern Territory public of piscatorial pleasures of capture and passive observation of fish?

ANSWER

The Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission is presently considering the establishment of marine national parks and reserves in a number of Northern Territory regions. The parks and reserves will be established to protect valuable coastal and marine environments and for the management and conservation of marine flora and fauna communities. In keeping with the commission's policies, provision will be made for public enjoyment, education and recreation in marine parks where compatible with the conservation goals. Marine parks and reserves will be in effect an extension of the existing system of parks and reserves throughout the Northern Territory.

Legal advice was recently obtained on a number of matters connected with the establishment of marine parks and reserves. Of particular importance to any future action is the proposed Commonwealth legislation on Coastal Waters (Northern Territory Powers) and Coastal Waters (Northern Territory Title) which will define the legislative power of the Northern Territory in respect of territorial seas. Once this is clarified, action can be commenced on the establishment of marine parks and reserves.

1222 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Why is the water tower on Whitewood Road not functional yet?

2. Was the construction up to the Department of Transport and Works standards and, if not, when will it be rectified and at whose expense?

ANSWER

The Whitewood Road water tower is still in the maintenance period and was emptied for a short period in December for a corrosion check. Any faults will be rectified by the contractor.

The tank was built in accordance with the specifications and the various Australian codes.

1223 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

If there are subsequent connections of blocks to the reticulated electricity before the elapse of the bond or levy time to the original energised blocks, will these later block owners have to pay a proportionate bond or levy and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

When an extension of the power system has been made with the aid of consumer contributions, there is no provision for subsequent connections to that system to be charged a proportionate contribution.

This is a problem which has concerned electricity authorities for years. It is not possible to keep going back and compensating people for new consumers. Every section of a HV extension will, at some time in the future, become a supply trunk for yet another subdivision and so on right back to the power station.

1224 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Has a restricted list of fruit and vegetables, available to residents of Jabiru, been prepared because of National Parks and Wildlife Regulations? If so, has the list been approved by a competent dietitian?

ANSWER

It is not true that there is a restriction on the type of fruit and vegetables which can be eaten by the residents of Jabiru.

The residents will be able to enjoy similar fruit and vegetables as Darwin residents do. It is expected they will be obtainable from the local supermarket in the normal way.

It is true, however, that there is a restriction on the plant species which can be grown in Jabiru.

A list of indigenous Australian plant species has been approved by the Jabiru Town Development Authority, following consultation with the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission and the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service.

This list includes trees, shrubs, fruit trees, fruiting plants, vegetables and decorative indoor plants and should be sufficient to meet the needs of the most discerning gardening enthusiast.

1226 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Do secondary school teachers have a guaranteed release time amounting to at least 10% of teaching time for preparation, marking examinations papers, etc.?

2. Do primary school teachers enjoy the same provision and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

1. Yes. All secondary school teachers have at least 10% (generally more) of their weekly program for preparation and marking, etc. It must be recognised that release time is not time off from work but is release from face-to-face teaching for the purpose of performing other associated duties, eg.

- the setting and marking of tests
- the marking of assignments and projects
- the preparation for lessons including practicals
- research and reading of supplementary subject matter.

2. No. In a primary school there are fewer tests to set and mark and there is less additional research and reading of subject matter required. However, primary teachers do undertake a considerable amount of preparation for their lessons, and are required to keep a large number of individual student and class records.

Officers of the Department have recently held extended discussions with the NT Teachers' Federation on this (and other) issues and we are in full agreement that subject to funds being made available by the Commonwealth for staff improvement, the staffing of primary schools in urban centres should be improved by a factor of 10% as soon as possible. The additional staff which this would provide could be utilised in one or more of the following ways:

1. reduction in class sizes in the early childhood years (1-3)
2. deployment of specialist teachers in areas such as music, art and crafts, physical education

3. some release time from direct teaching for teachers to enable them better to carry out their associated duties.

In the urban areas of the Northern Territory there are approximately 500 Band 1 and Band 2 teachers employed. A 10% improvement would mean an additional 50-odd Band 1 teachers at a cost of a little in excess of $\$\frac{1}{2}$ million. The improvement factor requested is restricted to urban centres only as outback schools already have a more generous pupil teacher ratio.

NOTE: Specialist teachers, over and above the existing establishment are employed in most schools, which already provides an opportunity for some release time for class teachers depending on the precise system of timetabling used in the school.

1227 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is the department going to allocate funds to the Darwin Primary School so that it can purchase appropriate furniture and fittings prior to the commencement of the 1980 school year?

2. If not, when will the school be allocated the money?

3. If the school is not being allocated any money at all for this purpose, why is it not?

ANSWER

1. Funds are not allocated to schools for the purchase of furniture. Furniture is ordered by the Department for all Government schools, and in the case of Darwin Primary School orders have been placed and delivery is expected before the commencement of the second term of 1980.

2. & 3. These questions are answered as in (1.) above.

1228 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has the NT government investigated the possibility of obtaining federal government funds for the financing of the Katherine dam under the recently announced scheme of diverting from oil generation of electricity to alternative sources of energy such as hydro-power?

ANSWER

To date the Katherine hydro-electric scheme has not reached the stage where estimates can be made with any degree of accuracy. As soon as:

(a) the project is proved to be technically possible; and

(b) economically viable;

then the Electricity Commission, in conjunction with the Water Division of the Department of Transport and Works and the Land Development Division of Department of Lands and Housing, will recommend to the government by way of a Cabinet paper how the costs shall be apportioned and where loan funds shall be obtained from.

1230 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

To what extent do government departments and statutory authorities have to consult the Public Service Commissioner's office on industrial relations matters?

ANSWER

Section 27 of the Public Service Act vests the power of determination of salaries and conditions of employees with the Public Service Commissioner. As all employees of Departments and statutory authorities (except Northern Territory Electricity Commission) are public servants, Departments and authorities must consult with the Public Service Commissioner on industrial relations issues in respect of these matters.

All other industrial relations matters arising from administrative actions are dealt with directly by management, with the Public Service Commissioner's Office providing a consultancy service to management on request.

Northern Territory Electricity Commission liaises with and keeps the Public Service Commissioner informed of industrial relations matters arising within the Commission.

1231 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What guarantees of occupancy by Northern Territory government departments are given to developers of office accommodation in the Territory?

ANSWER

No pre-commitment or guarantee is given initially to any developer prior to commencement of construction. Once construction is under way and we have a requirement for additional office space determined by forward planning of long term office accommodation requirements for all Northern Territory Government Departments, then negotiations may be entered into with the developer for the option to lease part or the whole of the building when completed. At that stage a guarantee of occupancy may be given for a set period up to a maximum of ten years as determined by circumstances related to forward planning. Usually a three year to five year period is negotiated with option for renewal thereafter if required and formal lease agreements are then executed.

1232 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is Palmdale Insurance Company still registered under the Workers Compensation Act and hence able to issue workers' compensation policies and, if so, why?

ANSWER

I signed a letter to Palmdale Insurance Company this morning so I have some knowledge of the present situation with that company. It has gone into liquidation in the south and naturally its branches in places such as the Territory are in the same situation. It wrote to the government requesting that its policies of workmen's compensation insurance be cancelled. We have responded to the company advising that the workmen's compensation policies will not be cancelled and that they are valid until the date of expiry. Of course, any shortfall that there may be in meeting claims on workers' compensation policies issued by Palmdale will be met by the Nominal Insurer.

1233 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What plans do Territory Parks and Wildlife officers have to administer the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act with reference to the keeping of protected fauna by private individuals?

ANSWER

The question that the honourable member for Tiwi has asked me is an interesting one. Territory Parks and Wildlife officers have attempted at all times to do their best to administer the act and its regulations effectively. From time to time, there have been problems because of the dispersal of the population throughout the Territory and the difficulties in meeting all inspectorial requirements. Indeed, there has been a backlog in dealing with applications for permission to keep wildlife privately but I understand that this backlog has now been almost cleared. Inspectors should be on top of the position in the very near future and should be able to carry out regular inspections.

1234 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Was he aware that the New South Wales Workers' Compensation Commission had refused Palmdale a licence to operate in the field of workers' compensation insurance? If so, what steps were taken to ensure that Palmdale were viable before they were given a licence in the Northern Territory to write workers' compensation insurance?

ANSWER

I am not aware that the New South Wales Workers' Compensation Commission had refused Palmdale Insurance Company a licence to write workers' compensation insurance in New South Wales. I will be interested to see evidence of that from the honourable the Leader of the Opposition. Nevertheless, Palmdale Insurance Company in the Northern Territory had been authorised to write workers' compensation business until its recent entry into liquidation. I understand that inspections of the Northern Territory branch indicates that it was carrying on business on a sound and profitable basis. I understand it has gone into liquidation as a result of unsound investment rather than unsound insurance trading.

1235 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

When will tenders be called for the use of the Darwin Hospital as a private hospital?

ANSWER

I cannot give the honourable member an exact date. The tender documents are currently being drawn up by the department and, as soon as they are ready and have been approved by Cabinet, they will be given to the Tender Board for processing.

1236 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Nominal Insurer requested the government to cancel the registration of Palmdale Insurance as a writer of workers' compensation in the Territory.

ANSWER

I am informed by my colleague the Treasurer that the Nominal Insurer has requested the government to cancel the authority of Palmdale to write workers' compensation in the Northern Territory. This follows on from the company entering into liquidation.

1237 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the road into the contractors' village at Nhulunbuy be upgraded?

ANSWER

The road is not on our current works program but we are giving the work required further consideration and hope that it can be committed to a works program later in the year.

1238 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Following on correspondence I have had with the minister, can he please advise me if a decision has been reached regarding motor vehicle registration reminders? If so, what is the decision?

ANSWER

Renewal notices will be sent out for vehicle registrations and for licences. The problem with the labels has not been resolved. We are looking closely at producing a new label which might alleviate some of the problems. The possibility of computerisation was raised in this House last year. We are unable to shift over to modern computerisation like the airlines, which was mentioned in that debate, and we are not prepared at this stage to have the labels typed individually because of the delays involved. We are still looking at the problem of labels and I think that we will come up with an adequate response.

1239 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the government yet decided on a level of annual subsidy to the Darwin city council for the development of the multi-storey car park in the Central Business District?

ANSWER

After a long period of negotiation with the city council officers and calculations of the subsidy necessary to enable the Darwin city council to overcome the current parking difficulties in the central business district, the government decided on a form of government assistance which has been offered to the corporation. We have offered the corporation a direct grant subsidy of $1.7m and will also hand over various blocks of land throughout the central business district in Darwin which have been earmarked as suitable for either present or future car parking. That land is valued at about $510,000. The offer was made to the corporation last Friday. I understand that the corporation will hold a meeting today to consider the offer. I hope that they will see the offer for what it is: a genuine offer by government to give the corporation sufficient funds to enable it to provide a total of some 1,400 car parking spaces off the street in Darwin. This includes the existing car parks that are off street in the various areas operated by the city council itself.

1240 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Why has Palmdale Insurance Company not been de-registered as the writer of workers' compensation insurance in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I would ask him to place that question on notice.

1241 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Could he inform me if any tenders were received for the letting of the cafeteria in the Chan Building?

ANSWER

Tenders have been called but, as far as I know, no tenders have been received. I understand that perhaps 1 or 2 offers rather than acceptances of the tender have been received. I understand that my department is considering the position at the present time.

1242 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

It is the policy of the Darwin Hospital that it will not arrange for persons admitted to the Casualty Section to see a private specialist if they request it. Is this in line with the minister's own policy and, if not, will he act to change the policy presently being implemented by people at the Darwin Hospital?

ANSWER

Did the honourable member refer to a private specialist or a private practitioner?

Mrs Lawrie: Either.

Mr TUXWORTH: My understanding is that, if a patient is admitted to the hospital and requests to see his private practitioner, that can be arranged. If that is not the case and the honourable member documents certain cases for me to have investigated, I will be happy to do that.

So far as referral to a specialist is concerned, when people are referred by departmental doctors to specialists, they are referred to the specialists of the department's choice. If the honourable member has any knowledge of people being denied access to their private practitioners, I would welcome a letter from her.

1243 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that staffing at the new Casuarina Library which he opened yesterday has been reduced to 11 despite the minister's assurance in the Assembly late last year that the library would have a full-time staff of 15? What effect will this reduction have on the range of services to be offered by the library and the hours that it will be opened to the public?

ANSWER

We are working on the recommendations of the state librarian in Western Australia, Professor Sharman, that a staff of 15 is the number that Casuarina Library should employ. The library was opened only yesterday. It is our intention to evaluate the effect of the opening of the Casuarina Library on the Nightcliff Library. After that evaluation, it may be necessary to close the Nightcliff Library. The staff would then be transferred over to the Casuarina Library. If the Nightcliff Library remains viable, I will put the case to my Cabinet colleagues for additional staff at the Casuarina Library. We anticipate that the library service will operate for 40½ hours per week. I would imagine that in the next 2 or 3 months I will be in a position to put that proposition to my colleagues.

1244 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Who is responsible for the upkeep of the road from Humpty Doo to the Elizabeth Valley area, the Department of Transport and Works or the land developer? If it is the developer, what redress do the block holders have when the road is in disrepair?

ANSWER

The Department of Transport and Works regularly maintains the first 2 kilometres of this access road from the Arnhem Highway which is part of the Fred's Pass Road. The remaining 8 kilometres have not been accepted for maintenance by the government and are not maintained by my department. As to the last part of the question, I would only be giving an opinion and I do not think that is proper.

1245 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In view of the Chief Minister's visit to Manila with a large delegation at considerable public expense, why has permission been refused to the Department of Primary Industry's librarian to attend a conference and workshop for rural librarians in Manila in March of this year?

ANSWER

These matters have nothing in common. I would have thought that a librarian going overseas to study librarian matters is quite a separate issue from tourism. If the honourable gentleman wants to raise the question of the Manila trip, he should do so with the Chief

Minister who is more qualified to answer. As for the librarian being refused permission to go to Manila for a conference, some 8 months ago I sent an application to the Overseas Travel Committee with a recommendation that the librarian be supported. The recommendation was knocked back. That is the only information I have.

1246 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Are all schools in the Northern Territory fully staffed for the 1980 school year?

ANSWER

Regrettably, the answer to that question is no. I do not know the position exactly in the Top End. I understand that, in the Darwin district and in relation to the rural schools throughout the Territory, the problem is non-existent. There are some teaching staff members missing from the Alice Springs High School and from Tennant Creek. This is a result of the problems with accommodation and the failure of the recruitment mechanism somewhere between our own system and that of the Commonwealth Teaching Service. An officer of the department is currently down south recruiting. Every effort is being made to bring staff numbers up to establishment level and I would assume this will be done over the next couple of weeks. I am assured by the department and by the principals of the schools involved that, at this stage, it poses no problem whatsoever for the delivery of programs in their schools. The staff have got behind their principals in every case and, as a result of the dedication and the preparedness of teachers to put themselves out, no student will be disadvantaged.

1247 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

The honourable minister will be aware that the Gove District Hospital is the only hospital in the Territory not equipped with a swimming pool for the use of the staff. Considering the isolation of Gove, I would be grateful to learn when this unsatisfactory situation will be rectified.

ANSWER

The honourable member has raised this question several times in the House. I am happy to tell him that money has been made available to the Department of Transport and Works for the construction of a swimming pool at the Gove Hospital. I am sure that the staff and the honourable member will be ultimately satisfied with the result.

1248 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it a fact that his department is currently considering a proposal by air charter operators for the use of the Sattler airstrip and, if so, when will a decision on this matter be taken?

ANSWER

There are a couple of applications for use of the Sattler airstrip by charter and flying club operators. I believe that the answer to the question should properly come from the Minister for Lands and Housing. I understand that there will be a negative response from the federal Department of Transport in respect of the applications.

1249 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

When will he announce the future use of Carpentaria College?

ANSWER

After an assessment of a number of applications received for the use of all or part of the site and buildings, Cabinet has decided that approximately one third of the area, including the improvements, will be granted to the Greek community of northern Australia for a very interesting proposal which it has to upgrade the facilities for various purposes. The balance of the site will be vested in the Housing Commission which will draw up a proposal for development and submit it to me for approval. The Housing Commission proposal will be aimed towards looking at aged persons' accommodation. At the moment, there are some studies underway to ascertain the specific needs in that field. I hope that, within a few months, a plan can be drawn up for that portion of the land. The land to be given to the Greek community will also include a soccer field at the rear of the building towards Nightcliff Road. Together with open space which will be incorporated in the Housing Commission development, this should satisfy the honourable member's desire that at least part of the area should be kept as open space. That is a concept that I also support.

1250 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Have steps been taken to place a medical officer on Groote Eylandt where there is no such officer?

ANSWER

The department lost its medical officer at Groote Eylandt in the latter part of last year and has had a great deal of difficulty recruiting somebody to go to such a remote place. In the recent days, the department has been fortunate to recruit the services of a husband and wife team who are due to take up their duties at Groote soon. I believe the problem has been overcome for the present. We are trying to set in train a process whereby we can plan ahead and allocate doctors to particular areas for a certain period and then plan to replace them at the end of that time. One of the difficulties we have had with places such as Gove and Tennant Creek is that doctors say they will come for 2 or 3 years and, at the end of a 12-month period, they pack their bags and go. It is very difficult to recruit people at short notice for those areas.

1251 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it a fact that money was allocated this financial year for the Community College of Central Australia to conduct a course in hospitality and tourism and, if so, will he advise when this particular course will commence? Is it a fact that it has been proposed that Gillen House in Alice Springs may be used as a hostel for migrants?

ANSWER

In answer to the last part of the question first, the answer is no. That is the first that I have ever heard of it and I would think it is probably just another figment of the inventive mind of the honourable member for MacDonnell. Gillen House is proposed by the government to be used as a school of tourism and catering. It is not true to say

that specific funds were allocated to the Community College of Central Australia last year for the purpose of establishing that school. Funds were made available to recruit a person who would act as head of that school and develop a course. Contrary to what the honourable member for MacDonnell may think and may utter in his press statements, you cannot pluck a complete curriculum program out of the air. We had to employ someone who had to obtain an understanding of Territory tourism. He has been generously funded to travel around Australia to examine equivalent schools around this country in order that he may develop his course. We have heard the accusation that the government is delaying the program. That is utterly untrue. It would not have been possible to commence such a course at the beginning of this year even if we owned the premises in which to conduct it. After protracted negotiations with the Baptist Trust, the government assumed responsibility for Gillen House on 1 January. Quite obviously, if this is to be done at all, it must be done well. Contrary to what the opposition believes, this government does not believe in blundering into things with knee-jerk proposals. It believes in working things out in detail and doing things properly the first time round. I hope to see the school of hospitality and catering to commence not later than the beginning of the next financial year. I believe we are now reaching a stage where we may be able to introduce short courses well before that time.

1252 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What progress has been made towards the establishment of a Northern Territory teaching service?

ANSWER

The policy of the government since self-government has been to establish a Northern Territory teaching service. The example I gave in an answer to a question from the honourable member for Arnhem highlights the necessity of having our own teaching service. In answering his question, I may have done my department a disservice by putting the breakdown in communications the wrong way round. In fact, there was no lack of diligence on the part of the department here. The problem occurred by having an employer responsible to another government over 1500 miles away. I have been working with the draftsmen now for over 3 weeks on a detailed preparation of a bill. I have had a detailed discussion and a preliminary discussion with the Northern Territory Teacher's Federation and will be having another one this week. I would like to put on record my appreciation of the cooperation and help that the federation executive has given in this exercise. I expect to talk to the draftsmen about the preparation of a final bill today. Of course, the bill must then go back for various discussions by people who are interested before it is tabled here. I anticipate giving notice of a Northern Territory Teaching Service Bill on the second last day of this sittings and presenting it on the last day.

1253 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When can we expect a sealed access road to the Alice Springs powerhouse?

ANSWER

Treasury and NTEC have been talking to each other about the need for this road and I understand that NTEC will seek money for that very purpose.

1254 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

What particular expertise is enjoyed by the 3 persons recently appointed as Inspectors of Cruelty under the Cruelty to Animals Act? I refer to the 3 persons who are inspectors of the Corporation of the City of Darwin also.

ANSWER

The honourable member will be aware that some of the questions that are coming to me this morning relate to the discharge of my functions which have been carried out by my colleague, the Treasurer, in my absence on my well-publicised visit to Manila where I enjoyed observing certain elections being held. I am told it is a dictatorship. To get to the question, 11 people were nominated by the Corporation of the City of Darwin for appointment as SPCA inspectors. The quality we look for in appointing these people is a high degree of responsibility. We should not expect a high degree of expertise in animal husbandry from all our inspectors. I understand that, under the act, policemen are appointed as inspectors. In the final analysis, 3 people will be appointed but I am not certain whether those appointments have been made.

1255 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has there been an increase over the last 3 years in the number of prison inmates requiring psychiatric treatment? If so, why?

ANSWER

There has been an increase in the number of inmates who require psychiatric care. Unfortunately, there are no accurate statistics to help me make a proper assessment of the situation. Generally speaking, it is considered that drug addiction has played a major role in the increase of people requiring psychiatric care in prisons.

1256 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he confirm in the House that he is opposed to a redistribution of electorates despite the fact that 6 out of the 19 seats are outside the 20% tolerance? If so, would he outline his reasons to the House?

ANSWER

I certainly cannot confirm to this House that I am opposed to a redistribution. I would very much like to see a redistribution take place in the Northern Territory before the next Legislative Assembly election. If, as is bruited in the common press, the honourable the Leader of the Opposition has a bill which he proposes to introduce into this House during this sittings to provide - contrary to his insistence when we passed the Electoral Bill - that we can appoint a delegate of the Chief Electoral Officer from one of the redistribution commissioners, then, if that legislation is appropriate, the government will certainly accept it.

At a recent press conference, I stated several reasons why - for example, logistics - a redistribution could not be held before the next election. To order a redistribution at this stage, as the opposition seems to want us to do, would be to perpetrate the first gerrymander in the history of Northern Territory politics because we would exclude the

Aboriginal voters who are to be compulsorily enrolled. There are teams going out to fulfil this task but I am told by the Electoral Office that they will not have fulfilled it until early May. If those people are ignored and the rolls are taken as they are now, then we will indeed be establishing a gerrymander. The government is not setting itself up to establish a gerrymander. We have inherited a situation whereby the Chief Electoral Officer, as I have said in the press, is unavailable to us to serve on the committee at the present time because of his Commonwealth commitments.

Apart from the fact that the Aboriginal people will not be on the rolls until early May, the reasons are that there are various steps set out in the Electoral Act which have to be taken once a redistribution is ordered. Those steps, if taken at breakneck speed, would take at least 100 days to complete. In my view, it would be impossible in all the circumstances to complete a redistribution until almost a week before the Assembly elections are due. It is really humanly impossible for many of the steps to be taken in the time that was allocated for them according to the briefing notes that I received. For instance, 2 days were allotted for the electoral redistribution commissioner to consider submissions and redraw the boundaries. As I recall on the occasion of the last redistribution, it took them many weeks to carry out that task. The government is not opposed to a redistribution. Indeed, it would like to see one. The practicalities of the situation make it such that it is unlikely that one will be able to be carried out.

1257 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise the results of the investigations of the Darwin waste water treatment plant which were carried out by the water division of his department in association with Binnie International (Aust) Pty Ltd and which were scheduled for completion in January of this year?

ANSWER

I have not got an up-to-date brief in front of me on that question. I will seek the information and provide it to the honourable member later in this sittings.

1258 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Could he advise the House of the current state of the program to carry out rehabilitation work at Rum Jungle ?

ANSWER

Because of the heavy involvement of the Commonwealth government in this particular project, the fact that the Northern Territory government acts as an agent for the Commonwealth in the rehabilitation project and the fact that I do not have the information at my fingertips. I will seek a written reply for the honourable member to bring him up to date.

1259 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has his department conducted an investigation into a proposal to allow free travel on buses to persons in receipt of unemployment benefits and, if so, what was the result of the investigation?

ANSWER

Yes, the department has been looking at the question of various persons travelling on buses at concessional rates. A submission is being prepared for me at this present time so that I can take the matter up further with the Minister for Community Development. Further progress will be reported in due course.

1260 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise the total value of transactions conducted through the Real Property Office during 1979?

ANSWER

The Real Property Office is where land sales, transfers and leases are registered in the Northern Territory under our Torrens title system. Last year, there was an increase of almost 1,000 in the actual number of dealings. I do not have those figures immediately in front of me but my recollection is that the number of dealings went from 7,000 to 8,000. The increase in the actual value of all the transfers of property was quite startling. The figures for 1978 throughout the Territory gave a total of about $43m and the total for 1979 was $68,130,000, an increase of roughly 50%.

1261 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise whether he has had discussions with other Attorneys-General regarding the regulation of the security industry and the uniformity of such regulation throughout Australia?

ANSWER

I have had discussions with other Attorneys-General regarding a uniform companies and security scheme being brought into operation throughout Australia. There are still difficulties between the states. A commission has been appointed which is trying to set the scheme up at present. The Northern Territory is looking at various alternatives. One of our problems is that the states will not admit the Territory as a voting member on the committee of management. In those circumstances, we do not feel that it is entirely wise to be bound by decisions in which we have little or no say. In all probability, I expect that the legislation to be introduced in the Northern Territory will be substantially similar to that being introduced elsewhere. In any event, I can assure all honourable members that a close scrutiny is being kept of developments throughout the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory will have legislation that will hold its own.

1262 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Public Service Commissioner received position papers from other state and Commonwealth public services on permanent part-time employment in the public service? If so, what action is the government taking on part-time positions in the career structure of the public service?

ANSWER

I cannot tell the honourable Leader of the Opposition whether the Public Service Commissioner has received position papers from the public

service boards and commissions outside the Northern Territory. I was not specifically aware that the Public Service Commissioner had sought these documents. Naturally, the Public Service Commissioner keeps me informed broadly on what is happening within his area. It has been my endeavour to interfere in the Public Service Commissioner's business as little as possible. Apparently, the Leader of the Opposition expects me to go through the Public Service Commissioner's mail. I can say that the Public Service Commissioner, at my direction, is considering the introduction in the Northern Territory of permanent part-time employment. I have stated that publicly a couple of times. The Public Service Commissioner has told me that there are problems concerning this. It is an objective that he would like to achieve and he is working towards that end. I do not believe that hastening into permanent part-time employment would be the answer. I think that we must look at all the problems and see that they are sorted out beforehand.

1263 Mr PERKINS to TREASURER

Is it a fact that last month he approved in principle the purchase of the Sportarama building in Alice Springs for use by the Community College of Central Australia? If so, will he also undertake to advise the council of the community college of the approval to purchase?

ANSWER

I am unaware of any of the buildings and the transactions to which the honourable member refers. Certainly, nothing on the matter has passed across my desk.

1274 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What are the guidelines followed in assessing the credentials of a company wishing to sell workers' compensation policies in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I ask him to place that question on notice because it involves quite a deal of research. I do not have to hand the full details of the criteria that are applied in assessing the suitability of insurance companies to carry on business in the Northern Territory. I would prefer to provide a completely detailed answer.

1275 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

What facilities are there at the new Casuarina Hospital for psychiatric patients? I refer to the number of beds intended to be available and rehabilitative facilities.

ANSWER

The Campbell Southwell report which was brought down just before Christmas has been accepted in principle by the government. The recommendations that Campbell and Southwell made relating to retaining services in the Darwin Hospital, particularly geriatric and psychiatric services, were that it would be in the best interests of the Territory or the people that we should not try to include everybody in the new Casuarina Hospital until new facilities are built for these particular branches of medicine on the Casuarina site. There is an interdepartmental committee working at the moment to see how these things can be put into practice. The fifth floor of the Casuarina Hospital, which is proposed to be the ward for the psychiatric patients, is currently designed to hold about 64 beds and 28 bassinets. It has to be remodelled rather extensively to cater for psychiatric patients. The issue of rehabilitation has not been examined at this stage. When the matter is finally resolved, I will advise the honourable member of the results.

1276 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has the Electricity Commission the power to check electricity meters within the boundaries of caravan parks where those meters have been installed by the park management?

ANSWER

My understanding is that the commission does have that power. However, I will obtain a verification in writing for the honourable member.

1277 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The East Arm slipway is one of the only safe boat ramps for people in the local area. Could the minister tell us whether access will be provided to the East Arm slipway for the general public? If the answer is no, could he say what action the Northern Territory government is able to take to ensure that this facility is open for public use?

ANSWER

I have been trying to get the East Arm slipway opened up for the public unsuccessfully for some years now. The area is covered by a quarantine declaration under a federal act that prohibits other persons, particularly the general public, going into the area at all. I have been writing letters to the federal Minister for Health and over the last year I also engaged the assistance of my colleague, the Minister for Health in the Northern Territory, to write as well trying to encourage the Commonwealth to amend the quarantine boundaries so that they can be retracted to an area covering the quarantine facilities there yet still provide access to the very substantial ramp which is a very valuable facility in a part of the harbour that at present has no public access at all.

We have been unsuccessful. However, we have received advice that the Commonwealth in its acquisitions of the Northern Territory which it had to complete prior to 1 July 1979 did leave most of the East Arm area in the hands of the Northern Territory. Whilst the land belongs to the Northern Territory, the quarantine declaration still prohibits public entry. I understand that the Health Department in the Northern Territory has received recent advice from the federal Health officials that, as a result of new quarantine facilities being arranged at Fairfield in New South Wales, there is a proposal to vacate East Arm completely. The East Arm area has been proposed in the past for a future powerhouse site and also an industrial area and port. Without question, the quarantine facilities will have to be relocated elsewhere eventually. I will now enlist the aid of the Chief Minister, the biggest gun we have in the Northern Territory, to try to prevail upon the federal Minister for Health to see his way clear to amend this quarantine boundary. There is no reason whatsoever in any arguments that have been put forward by the federal government in the past that the boundary should cover the area that it does at the present time. The facilities at East Arm are completely fenced from the public. The federal Department of Health has taken a completely unrealistic attitude. I hope that, in the next few months, we will be able to resolve the matter.

1278 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has he received the report on the future use of the Fannie Bay Gaol site and, if so, what are the recommendations and does the government intend to act on them?

ANSWER

We have received an initial report. Until such time as an evaluation is made and I can report to Cabinet, no further consideration will be made.

1279 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the importance of obtaining necessary business qualifications from the court, why has the Real Estate Institute course been discontinued at the Darwin Community College this year?

ANSWER

I think the honourable member was referring to the Land and Business

Agents course which the Darwin Community College does conduct. It has not been terminated at all. I do not know where that information came from. It is quite inaccurate. The Darwin Community College advertised in about November last year for second year enrolments. They had about 40 in first year. In the first response to the advertisement for second year enrolements, there were about 4. Quite clearly the Darwin Community College cannot run a viable course of that nature with just 4 students.

Although viewed with mixed feelings by some, the legislation requires qualifications to be gained to practise as a real estate agent or a business agent. As a result of that, members of the Real Estate Institute promptly went around and rustled up some interest in the course. I understand that there are about 16 for the second year course and it will be commencing forthwith. There has never been a termination; it is just that the second year never got off the ground until it was pointed out to people who were interested in this area that they should continue.

The government will be making available to the Darwin Community College the additional sum of $10,000 to prepare the course as an external course so that people outside of Darwin can participate and so that the documentation and curiculum developed by the external course will also be available to the Community College of Central Australia. As such, it will form a core of the curiculum for that college.

1280 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What was the cattle turnoff in Alice Springs district last year? What is the rate of national increase? Does the government have plans to cope with the gross overstocking of properties if the extraordinary run of good seasons finishes this year and taking into consideration that one pocket of land in the district has already been declared a drought area?

ANSWER

The figures requested do not readily spring to mind. I think the Territory turnoff was about 400,000 cattle last year. I cannot answer the exact regional turnoff question. I think the turnoff figures can be expected to accelerate somewhat because of the dry conditions and the better transportation systems that will be available during 1980. I do not believe that the honourable member is correct in his statement that there is a declared dought area in Central Australia. I understand that some properties have suffered very dry periods and I will be looking at those properties this weekend to enable the government to decide just what its position should be in respect of its drought policy.

1281 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is there any further information available as to the future of Palmerston House situated in Myilly Terrace?

ANSWER

No decision has been made to proceed with any development of Palmerston House. As I told the member when he first asked me this

question late last year, it is being used by the Department of Community Development to store office equipment and furniture. It would be a very expensive process to rehabilitate Palmerston House. Until such time as a decision is made on its future, I cannot give the honourable member any further information.

1282 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Would the minister provide this House with more details about the type of aircraft, particularly light aircraft, to be used by the new Northern Territory airline? Is he aware that the people of western Queensland rejected proposals to replace domestic carriers with a new service using the smaller planes likely to be used in the Northern Territory? What steps is the government taking to ensure that air travellers in the Territory do not receive an inferior service in terms of inflight service and facilities under the new airline?

ANSWER

I will provide the information during the course of the sittings.

1283 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What facilities are provided at Berrimah Gaol for women? I refer to sport and recreation facilities, work areas, work undertaken, work release and also further education. Would he also advise in what ways do these differ from facilities available to men at the Berrimah Gaol?

Mr SPEAKER: I direct that the question be placed on notice.

1284 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

I refer to the proposed stock feed legislation. Has a submission gone to Cabinet for legislation to be prepared and, if not, when will that submission be before Cabinet?

ANSWER

It has not gone before the Cabinet. I have been somewhat remiss in not having the information at this time. I will endeavour to obtain the information for her at a later time.

1285 Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Can the minister advise when serviced land will be made available in Katherine for residential purposes?

ANSWER

There has been a shortage of land in Katherine. The government has moved as expeditiously as it could to ensure that land is turned off from the area known as the Transport and Works depot as soon as possible. A proposal has been drawn up which includes somewhere between 20 and 30 residential allotments. These can be turned out fairly quickly with a small amount of roadworks being installed. I understand that this is well advanced and they are proposing to go to tender on the road concerned very shortly. The longer-term needs of Katherine certainly will not be met by 20 or 30 blocks and we are proposing to go

again to tender this financial year for Katherine east residential subdivision, an area just out of Katherine which jumps a flood plain. That will be the future major expansion of Katherine. Across the road from that is the Katherine east industrial subdivision which will go to tender in May this year. I would hope that towards the latter half of this year residential lots will be turned off for sale in Katherine itself and, not long after that, land will be turned off just out of Katherine but in more substantial quantities.

1286 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The Alice Springs Basketball Association has made an application for land in the Sadadeen area for a basketball stadium. Could he tell me when the lease is likely to issue?

ANSWER

I cannot answer that question. I am not aware of every single application that is made to the government for land. There are many of them every month and I am not familiar with this particular application. I would really have no idea when a lease will issue and, indeed, if a lease will issue. Of course, the government does not accede to every request for land and, in some cases, it is felt that a more appropriate course would be for certain sporting organisations - I am not saying that this applies here - to amalgamate their applications with other similar groups to get the best use of facilities, land and club houses and to make a more successful and viable operation for all.

1287 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it intended that the new Territory airline will take over the Aerial Medical Service?

ANSWER

The future function and administration of the Northern Territory Aerial Medical Service is one that is currently under review. TAA have been servicing the NTAMS organisation for some time and part of the proposal with East West Airlines was that they be given an opportunity to carry on that work. East West Airlines are negotiating with the department on what is required and a decision will be taken in due course. It is more a question of economics than of principle. We are quite happy for East West Airlines to be involved.

1288 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he inform me of any proposed maintenance program to upgrade the public service houses in Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

After an unfortunately long period of agitation from the honourable member for Nhulunbuy, the government has all the specifications and inspections necessary to decide on a course of action in relation to public service houses in Nhulunbuy which were originally built by the mining company. These houses have quite a number of faults which have not been attended to. The faults stretch back quite a number of years. Recently, the Housing Commission completed its assessment of the situation and, in respect of 69 houses has undertaken to have faulty windows and mechanisms replaced, which have been a source of considerable

frustration to tenants, insect screens fixed and kitchen and bathroom modifications made. I believe the situation is really quite serious in some situations. The hot water systems will also be replaced in the dwellings and painting carried out to bring them up to a comparable standard with other government buildings in the Territory.

1289 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to the reply he gave yesterday regarding the future use of Carpentaria College. Would he table in this Assembly the "interesting proposal" which the Greek community has to upgrade the facilities for various purposes? I refer to the improvements on the site and the one-third of the site which has been granted to the Greek community. I ask him to make public the details of those proposals.

ANSWER

I think the appropriate minister to handle this matter would be the Minister for Community Development. I am not trying to dodge the issue but it is more his role now that it has reached the stage of land allocation. I am sure the minister will undertake to provide details.

1290 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Would the minister table in this Assembly the "interesting proposal" which the Greek community has to upgrade the facilities for various purposes? I refer to the improvements on the site and the one-third of the site which has been granted to the Greek community. I ask him to make public the details of those proposals.

ANSWER

Yes.

1291 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Will he undertake to examine a rental subsidy scheme for low-income earners in private rental accommodation who are awaiting Housing Commission accommodation?

ANSWER

I noted with some interest in the press over the last couple of weeks that the honourable member mentioned that the government should subsidise some persons in the private sector for their rental accommodation. We would need to approach this with great caution because it could be enormously expensive and may do little more, in some circumstances, than drive up rents by the amount of government subsidies. The government has a very extensive program this year in providing accommodation for the public. Indeed, on a percentage basis, the Northern Territory would have more houses built by its Housing Commission than any other state in Australia. I believe the closest state to us would have something like 5% of its housing stock built by the government whereas the Northern Territory would have something in the vicinity of 31%, that is including government houses as well. We could hardly be accused of not seeking to put much of the government's resources into housing the public in the Northern Territory.

In answer to the honourable member's question, the matter of government subsidy to the private accommodation market is a question which is

being looked at by federal housing officials at this stage and no doubt will be the subject of some discussion at a forthcoming Housing Ministers Conference. At this stage, the Northern Territory government is not contemplating such a scheme.

1292 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Could he advise what action, if any, his department will be taking to rehabilitate the road side and other areas through the foothills north of Alice Springs which were damaged by the reconstruction of that road?

ANSWER

The department is well aware of the problems caused by construction as far as it affects the environment. Indeed, it has spent in excess of $100,000 on repairs to some of the areas that have been damaged. At present, it is in consultation with the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission Soil Conservation Unit. We will be looking at further regeneration and rehabilitation in due course.

1293 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he tell the House what support the Northern Territory government has given to Darwin's solar village?

ANSWER

I will need to obtain that information for the honourable member. I am aware that the solar village has sought support from many government agencies in the Northern Territory. I am aware that they wrote to the Mines Division and we offered them support of a technical nature. I will provide the information at a later date.

1294 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise whether there has been further development since the introduction of the Aboriginal worker health program in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

As honourable members will know, the health worker training program has been under way for some years. It has recently been expanded to Gove and we are looking at setting up a health worker training base from the hospital in Katherine. I am sure that would be music to your ears, Mr Speaker. One of the most recent developments which has come about is that there are so many young Aboriginal people who have reached high levels of proficiency in their respective training courses that the department is now introducing a senior health worker trainee so that people can become proficient and are able to take over the functions and administration of their health centres in remote areas. These duties can be handed over. There will be somebody with local responsibilities to hand them to and the normal lines of management can be maintained.

1295 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer to the very long, large open drain on Playford Street and part of Douglas Street in my electorate, which I am sure the minister is aware of. The drain is the responsibility of the Corporation of the

City of Darwin but that body is unwilling or unable to enclose the drain. Will he undertake to have money allocated in the next budget for this work to be done in the interests of the residents and also of the Darwin Racing Club?

ANSWER

I am indeed very happy to have the experts in the Department of Transport and Works discuss the matter with the council. As the honourable member indicated, it is a council responsibility. However, we have assisted the council on many projects over the last 2 years and, if we can get this sort of work onto a program, we will.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

1296 Mr STEELE (Transport and Works): Mr Speaker, I would like to reply fully to a question that was asked of me yesterday by the honourable member for Alice Springs. I inadvertently misled the House with the reply I gave the member. The question referred to matters of registration, renewal notices and so on. The misleading reply to the question was in respect of the registration labels. The department has been 3 steps in front of me and they have produced a brand new label without the typing that was required under the old system. This might go a long way towards expediting efficient services to the public.

1306 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Does the Chief Minister agree with his recent statement that the government should go its full term and, if not, will he end speculations forthwith and name the date of the next Legislative Assembly elections?

ANSWER

The government has done nothing which could cause speculation about the date of the next elections. I have said on several occasions that the elections are due by 13 August. I see no reason for elections to be called earlier. Speculation by journalists in the dead of night, which I would suggest is what caused this morning's radio reports, is not for the government to account to the people for. I have said many times to journalists and to this House that I cannot see any reason for early elections at the present time. To make a firmer commitment than that is impossible.

1307 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I understand that proposals to have a new caravan park set aside in the Brinkin subdivision have not been included in the current plan that is on display for that area. In view of the urgent need for additional accommodation in this field, could the minister please tell me what areas are being considered for the additional provision for a caravan park in the Darwin area?

ANSWER

The subject of the availability of caravan parks in Darwin is of some interest to me. I am concerned that the Planning Authority chose not to exhibit a government proposal that land at Brinkin be included in the current re-zoning of the area for a caravan park within reasonable proximity of the foreshore. The Corporation of the City of Darwin is proposing to go ahead with their scheme of establishing a fairly large park on the Tracy Village site as a result of an agreement that they have with the federal government of a limited-term tenure over the area. They are proposing a tourist park as distinct from one that houses long-term caravan dwellers. I believe that we need to plan further areas in Darwin for caravan parks. While arguments may be put at the moment that there are sufficient parks around to meet the immediate needs, I believe that we should take opportunities now to exhibit further sites for caravan parks even if they are not released. A proposal by a private developer to have a caravan park at Coconut Grove is to go on display shortly and members will see notices in the near future in that regard.

1308 Mr BALLANTYNE to CHIEF MINISTER

What steps has the government taken to have cricket test matches televised in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government has and is continuing to do all in its power to try to have the cricket test matches and all other major sporting events televised in the Territory. Indeed, with the cooperation of the federal Minister for Post and Telegraphs, Mr Tony Staley, the government was successful in persuading the Australian Broadcasting

Commission to avail itself of the offer of the exclusive rights that Channel 0 had for the Melbourne Cup last November. We saw the Melbourne Cup in the Territory even though people outside the metropolitan area of Brisbane in Queensland did not at the time. We have made numerous representations to both the ABC and the Commonwealth minister about sporting broadcasts and major sporting events generally. As far as cricket is concerned, the problem is the agreement entered into by the Cricket Board of Control with the Packer group of companies, and that agreement gives Channel 9 the exclusive rights to televise test cricket for 3 years. The Territory government made submissions to the Trade Practices Commission in an endeavour to upset the agreement at least to the extent that it excluded the right of the ABC to televise test cricket. The Trade Practices Commission took the view that the agreement did not contravene the Trade Practices Act. Honourable members may not be aware that the ABC sought an interim injunction just before Christmas to restrain the Australian Cricket Board of Control and the Packer group from giving effect to the agreement. The ABC failed in that attempt. The substantive hearing of the ABC's action against the Australian Cricket Board and the Packer group is presently being heard in the Federal Court in Sydney. The Northern Territory sought on Tuesday to intervene in the action to put the Territory's point of view. In the event, our application to intervene was refused but all parties have been left in no doubt as to just how upset the Territory is at being excluded from televised broadcasts of test cricket and other major sporting events.

1309 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is mining reserve No 352 at Kangaroo Flats between Finniss River Station Road and Waugite Road a mining reserve belonging to the Department of Defence because it is a firing range or because it is an area populated by kangaroos?

ANSWER

The reserve was declared in 1972 by the Mines Branch to preclude any exploration activity over an area which the army had set aside as a small arms firing range. To my knowledge, that is the only activity that the reserve has ever been declared for. I am unaware of any information which suggests that the area is heavily populated with wallabies and it would seem to me that, if the area is being used as a small arms firing range by the army, then it is most unlikely that fauna of any description would be in the area because they would be frightened away by the discharging of the guns.

1310 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

Some time ago in the Assembly, he made a statement about the desirability of the introduction of updated consumer credit legislation in the Northern Territory. New South Wales is now proceeding to do this. Can he advise the House what steps are being taken to introduce such legislation as soon as possible here?

ANSWER

Consumer credit legislation is a fairly vexed question. It is a topic that has been before the Australian Attorneys-General at their conferences ever since I have been representing the Territory at those conferences. One must appreciate that, for the Northern Territory to retain lines of credit and links with the financial mainstream of

of Australian life, we cannot, unlike New South Wales, go it alone on consumer credit legislation. For that reason, we have been very anxious to see the uniform consumer credit legislation which was prepared by the Victorian Parliamentary Draftsman. I understand the bills were introduced in the Victorian parliament in 1979 and received some widespread measure of approval from the other states of the Commonwealth. Indeed, at one stage during the meetings of Attorneys-General, it appeared to me that there was general agreement on the nature of the consumer credit legislation - and I am speaking off the top of my head but I am fairly certain that all that I am saying is correct - and that was why the bills were introduced in Victoria so that they could be debated there. I myself received many submissions from financial institutions that were concerned with different aspects of the Victorian legislation. Once the various problems had been worked out, the legislation was to be introduced in all other Australian state parliaments.

I must say that the implementation of the complex legislation would have been quite a burden to the Northern Territory and would have resulted in the appointment of a considerable number of additional officers. There were commissions to be set up and I did forewarn the Attorneys-General that the actual implementation of the legislation might have to take place on an abbreviated scale in the Northern Territory which did not have quite the same demands as the 3 eastern states principally concerned. Indeed, I think Western Australia was concerned at the burden of administration of the legislation. There is, at present, a conference of Attorneys-General taking place in Hobart which I have been unable to attend but my officers are attending. I gave instructions to the officers on the various items on the agenda but my recollection is that, at the very best, there was just some vague report on the present status of the consumer credit legislation. I certainly agree with the concept of the legislation and, when I am next able to attend a standing committee meeting of Attorneys-General, I will raise the question again.

The Northern Territory has not just stuck to the course of looking at only the uniform legislation as it was prepared. We have undertaken a review of South Australian legislation and, no doubt, if New South Wales legislation has been introduced, we will also have a look at that. The possible advantages to the Northern Territory of going it alone could be outweighed by the disadvantages of various companies ceasing to do business in the Northern Territory. We could therefore be cutting off our nose to spite our face. That is the delicate balance that the government has to strike in this matter.

1311 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

Can he explain how the Centralian Advocate of today's date was able to outline details of his mini-budget prior to its presentation to this House?

ANSWER

I have no information before me on what the Centralian Advocate may have printed for public release. It is customary, before money bills are introduced into parliaments, for the press to be given briefings on the matter so that they can prepare information for publication. It is my information that the Centralian Advocate has not been released as yet and I see no breach of confidence.

1312 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

I will produce a copy of the Centralian Advocate for the Treasurer and I ask him, now that he has admitted that if it is released prior to presentation it would be a breach of convention, can he explain again? I can give him the paper.

ANSWER

I suggest the Leader of the Opposition seeks the explanation, as I will, from the Centralian Advocate.

1313 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Could he inform me what sites are being considered for the use of a marina in the Darwin area and when is it likely that tenders will be called for the establishment of such a marina?

ANSWER

There are several sites under examination by consultants appointed by the Department of Transport and Works. These sites have been narrowed down in order of priority. The main priority site at this stage is Vesteys Beach, followed closely by Mindil Beach and Frances Bay. This does not mean that a marina will be built on any one of those sites. The government has decided to proceed further with a feasibility study into the first site mentioned to give us a clearer understanding of whether we should go to tender or whether we should call for expressions of interest into building a marina on that site.

1314 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

What steps were taken by him or his officers to ensure the security of the mini-budget prior to its presentation to this House?

ANSWER

The matter of briefing to the press is one that is done on a regular basis as far as embargoes are concerned. In this situation we have not taken the steps of physically locking people into a room, particularly in the situation of the Centralian Advocate which is printed a day or two before its actual release. This is because it is an Alice Springs paper but is printed in Darwin. I believe that we have taken every reasonable step to ensure confidentiality although I will certainly look into the matter further.

1315 Ms D'ROZARIO to the MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why is it no longer the practice of the fire brigade to automatically attend at road accidents?

ANSWER

I do not have that information with me but I will let the honourable member know when I have that information.

1316 Mr BALLANTYNE to the MINISTER for HEALTH

My question relates to the question asked yesterday regarding Aboriginal health workers. Are Aboriginal health workers being involved in

programs to improve dental health?

ANSWER

In the middle of last year, the department launched its first prophylactic dental training program amongst Aboriginal health workers. The success the department has had in training Aboriginals at clinics in remote areas has been encouraging and the department has sought to extend this to dental health care. To that end, a clinic has been established in the Darwin Hospital for training Aboriginal people. The program is to be extended to other centres as soon as training equipment can be purchased. I am sure that the program will benefit the Aboriginal people as much as the Aboriginal health worker training program has.

1317 Mrs O'NEIL to the MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

The sum of $4.1m is being rumoured as the amount to be spent on a marina at Vesteys Beach. Can the minister advise the origin of that sum and, if not, what amount will be spent on studies for a marina?

ANSWER

I am not able to confirm an amount for the financing of a marina at any one site. Neither am I able to establish the exact amount that will be paid to consultants to determine the site. As information comes to hand, I am quite happy to keep the honourable member informed. The major site for consideration has been confirmed as being in her electorate. I am quite happy to liaise with her over the matter.

1318 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it true that, because of the very high enrolments at both Kormilda and Dhupuma Colleges this year, Aboriginal students are being turned away from those institutions?

ANSWER

I have no knowledge of the last part of the question. I understood that enrolments were quite good this year and I find it very pleasing to have it confirmed by the honourable member for Arnhem. I will certainly look into his allegation and provide a response later on in the sittings.

1319 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the Corporation of the City of Darwin be running an appeal for the victims of the Goldsworthy cyclone disaster?

ANSWER

I am informed by the Director-General of the Chief Minister's Department that the Deputy Mayor of the Corporation of the City of Darwin, Alderman Cec Black, has agreed that the corporation would sponsor such an appeal. I believe that Darwin's reputation is on the line in this matter. I would hope that all service clubs, all media outlets and all the citizens of Darwin get right behind this appeal. I certainly invite all members representing Darwin electorates to support the Corporation of the City of Darwin in the sponsorship of this appeal.

1320 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What research is being done into cattle reproduction in the Northern Territory? What is the staffing and what are the future plans for the Berrimah nutrition laboratory? What is to be done about mimosa and hyptis control or eradication in the Top End?

ANSWER

In respect of weeds, I indicated yesterday that I would update the statement that I had circulated in November and that I would endeavour to make that statement next week. As regards the organisation of various units of administration in the Primary Industries Division, I am not able to provide any information at all.

1321 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Who has control over Thoraks Reserve at Berrimah, the Department of Defence or the Northern Territory government? If it is the Northern Territory government, does this reserve come under the control of the Minister for Community Development or the Minister for Industrial Development?

ANSWER

The area known as Thoraks Reserve was one of the many areas throughout the Northern Territory that was acquired by the Commonwealth shortly after Territory self-government and, at present, it is held in fee simple by the Commonwealth government.

1322 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware of a proposal by the Darwin Golf Club to develop its present site in McMillans Road as a housing estate? If he is so aware, has the club approached the government for any assistance to undertake this project?

ANSWER

The Darwin Golf Club has approached the government with a proposal to alleviate a number of problems that it has. We have had talks with them on a couple of occasions and have examined proposals put to us. I hope to be in a position within a week or so to make an announcement on the subject.

1323 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer to the investigation by the Liquor Commission into under-age drinking. The commission noted that the response from Alice Springs High School to the questionnaire was very poor. Has the minister investigated this report?

ANSWER

I have asked for an informal report on the matter to try to get the message across to all schools that participation by schools in these sort of surveys and programs undertaken by the government and its instrumentalities is bordering on the essential. I am quite sure the honourable member for Arnhem, in his capacity as shadow minister, would also like it known that the response from schools generally was

tremendously good throughout the Northern Territory. I am unaware why this happened in Alice Springs. It may have been a late delivery of papers. I will certainly inquire without wishing to be overbearing about it. It is a matter largely for schools and, as a minister, I would not seek to interfere in that sort of thing, other than to encourage all schools to participate in these inquiries. I do not think I would necessarily bring it back to the House in a public manner but certainly I will try to find out the reason for the honourable member so that he may let his colleagues know.

1324 Mr VALE to TREASURER

What proposals, if any, does the Territory Insurance Office have to open an office in Katherine?

ANSWER

At present, it is not proposed to open an office of the Territory Insurance Office in either Katherine or Tennant Creek as yet. The situation has been constantly monitored and kept under review. It is a matter which will be determined by the level of business in the towns. The TIO has a facility where it can use agents in these towns to sell insurance and indeed conduct other necessary procedures in the insurance industry. Officers of the Territory Insurance Office visit Katherine and Tennant Creek and other Territory centres on a regular basis keeping an eye on the levels of business. At present, I cannot give a specific date when any office might be opened up by the Territory Insurance Office.

1325 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the present situation regarding any relief to be offered to the people who were disaffected by the collapse of the Northumberland Insurance Company?

ANSWER

In anticipation of this question from the honourable member for Nightcliff, I discussed the matter with the Solicitor-General. As I said in the House last year, the Northern Territory Cabinet had made a decision on relief to victims of the Northumberland collapse. On the day after we made our decision, a letter was received from the Minister for Finance outlining a Commonwealth proposal. The Solicitor-General and I have been in correspondence with the federal Minister for Home Affairs since then and we are awaiting a reply from him. Subject to my taking the matter to Cabinet again in the fairly near future, it looks very likely that the Northern Territory proposal will be reactivated.

1327 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Chief Minister heard the call from the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service and the Alice Springs Lawyers' Association for an inquiry into police actions against Aboriginals in the Centre? Will he accede to this request and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

I heard the call from the Alice Springs Lawyers' Association on the ABC news at 6.15 this morning. Aside from that, I have not heard anything from that association. I have not received any formal communication from them and I would have thought, in dealing with a body of professional men, men of my own profession, that they would have had the courtesy to at least communicate to me the contents of any press statement that they might have made, if not in advance of making it, certainly contemporaneously with making it. Be that as it may, I received a telex last week from the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service. That legal aid service was good enough to publish its telex widely and I do not think I need read out that telex. The nub of the telex is that the service wants a public inquiry into allegations of police brutality in the Centre, particularly Alice Springs.I might mention that the Alice Springs Lawyers' Association which has a substantial body of Legal Aid lawyers in its membership. The nub of what I heard on the news this morning was support by that association for the call by the Aboriginal Legal Aid Service for a public inquiry.

In answer to the honourable Leader of the Opposition's question, I will read a telex that I have sent to Mr Howard in answer to his reported call for a public inquiry:

Dear Mr Howard, I refer to a report on the ABC News attributed to you which indicates that your association is seeking an inquiry into allegations of police brutality in the southern part of the Northern Territory. I would have thought that, if you are calling for such an inquiry, at least you would have communicated with me. As I have not heard from you, I shall have to rely on a secondhand report from the press. Because of the avenues already available to people said to be aggrieved by police misconduct, I do not agree that any public inquiry is necessary. As you are aware, the present system of complaints against the police can be dealt with in 3 ways:

(1) in the first instance, the complaint to the commissioner is investigated by a commissioned officer within the police force;

(2) in each case the Ombudsman is advised of the complaint by the commissioner and the complainant can request the Ombudsman to investigate the matter if he is not satisfied that adequate action has been taken by the commissioner; and

(3) the complainant can take either criminal or civil proceedings against the officer concerned.

As I understand it, complaints against the police are exhaustively

investigated within the police force and the following procedure takes place:

(a) investigation by a commissioned officer with oversighting by the inspectorate;

(b) in special circumstances, the complaint against the police is investigated in its entirety by the inspectorate;

(c) all investigations of complaints against the police are reviewed by the Ombudsman at his disgression irrespective of whether the matter is independently reported to the Ombudsman by the complainant; and

(d) in appropriate cases, substantial complaints against the police are pursued either by charging members before a criminal court or through the internal disciplinary machine.

You will be aware that, since self-government, there have been a number of policemen prosecuted before the magistrate's court in Alice Springs. In each case, the prosecution was handled by the Department of Law which briefed experienced counsel from the private profession to conduct the case for the Crown. In all but one case, the defendant was acquitted.

I am advised that, for the period 1 July 1978 to 30 June 1979, 132 complaints were lodged with the NT police, all of which were investigated and passed on to the Ombudsman as a matter of course. In each case, so I am informed, the complainant was advised in writing of his right to seek an investigation by the Ombudsman. In fact, in the same period, only 7 complainants requested the Ombudsman to investigate their respective complaints. Of these complaints, 5 were found by him not to have been sustained, 1 not involving assault was sustained and 1 complaint of assault at Nhulunbuy is still under investigation.

For the period 1 July 1979 to 1 January 1980, there were 94 complaints against police all of which came under the notice of the Ombudsman. I am informed that in only 1 case has the complainant asked the Ombudsman to make further investigations into the matter and this involved an alleged assault at Katherine upon a European man. No decision has yet been made in this matter.

In view of the invitation to people, said to be aggrieved by police misconduct, to have their complaints dealt with by the Ombudsman and in view of the small number of requests made of the Ombudsman who has wide-ranging inquisitorial powers, I am unable to understand why a public inquiry is necessary.

Those are the facts of the matter, Mr Speaker. There has not been a complaint to the police by the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service since September of last year and, as far as I am aware, there has not been a complaint to the Ombudsman by the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service in the same period. If the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service is inferring that the police, the Ombudsman and the courts are all in collusion to defeat all of their complaints, then I can only say that those persons in the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service responsible for the slanders

on the good name of the Police Force of the Northern Territory are one-eyed zealots. It is certainly not the intention of this government, whilst there are the most advanced avenues available in Australia for complaints against the police to be investigated, determined and tried independently, to order a public inquiry when those avenues are not demonstrably being availed of.

1328 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will he be reporting to the Assembly this week on the deliberations and recommendations of the alcohol conference which was held last Friday and Saturday in Darwin?

ANSWER

I had not intended to do so at this stage because the department has not yet furnished me with the report. However, if interest is indicated by the honourable members, I will move to have that matter brought forward as a matter of urgency. However, I do not particularly think that it is a thing that we should rush into and debate this week because it happened last week. It would be more prudent to have the report circulated to honourable members and perhaps raise the matter at the April sittings.

1329 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The area of land in the Smith Street Mall which was previously occupied by the Tourist Bureau has been in a messy state for a number of years now. What use is planned for that particular block?

ANSWER

I too am concerned at the continuing delay on deciding the future of this block. The block is somewhat unique in that it does not have any rear access at all to West Lane. This makes it particularly difficult to plan a development that can be serviced properly. We have had the Territory Insurance Office and the Department of Lands and Housing confer on the most appropriate use of this particular site, bearing in mind the government's desire to have the Northern Territory Tourist Commission's office in a very prominent place. That has been the proposed site for the new office of the Territory Insurance Commission. We have not yet determined on a suitable size of development for the particular block or how the funding arrangements would prevail between the possible Territory Insurance Office involvement, the Tourist Commission and the Northern Territory government. However, I am pressing the officers concerned and hope to have a resolution within a couple of weeks at the outside.

1330 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can the minister advise when legislation to enable the registration of physiotherapists, which has been under preparation for some time, will be ready to be introduced into the Assembly?

ANSWER

The legislation is in the drafting pipeline along with about 49 other bills from the Health Department. As soon as draftsmen have completed their job, it will be brought forward to the House. I cannot give the honourable member a fixed time as to when it will be dealt with.

1331 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can the minister advise the tender target date for the new sealed section of the Mainoru road?

ANSWER

The sealing of this road is part of the government's on-going, all-weather access proposals. This year, we will seal the road to Bamyili settlement. I think you are familiar, Sir, with the jump-ups that extend further out to Mainoru. These will be included in the program. The tender target date is around April of this year and the cost of the contract will be in the vicinity of $1.75m.

1332 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Following the government's request to the Prime Minister and the Minister for National Development last year, has the Territory received increased allocations of avgas and diesel fuel for this year and, if so, by how much have the allocations been increased?

ANSWER

I would ask him to put the question on notice.

1333 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

When will the works, suspended since the cyclone, on the Dripstone Community Health Centre proceed?

ANSWER

The contract has been let. Honourable members from the northern suburbs would probably be aware that clearing has already begun on the block and half of the demountables have been removed. It is anticipated that the work will be completed close to Christmas.

1334 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will he table in this House, as promised last Wednesday, details of the proposal put forward and accepted by the Northern Territory government by the Greek community for the future use of Carpentaria College?

ANSWER

Hopefully, on Thursday morning.

1335 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the Territory government considering a reduction in licensing fees for the sale of low-alcohol beer?

ANSWER

Honourable members would be aware that this issue was raised in a public forum recently. A candidate from one of the parties put the proposition forward as something that should be investigated and perhaps introduced into the Northern Territory. Personally, I think the proposal has a lot of merit. We have done a bit of homework on

it. In the Northern Territory, the liquor licence fee is $7 per 100 or 7% of the value of liquor sold. This amounts to about 90c a carton or a couple of cents a can. However, the federal excise is something totally different altogether. I knew the federal government did very well out of excise on alcohol but it does even better than I thought it did. Their current rate of excise is levied at the very meagre level of 52c per litre which is equivalent to $4.60 per carton. It would appear that, with the 2 taxes that are imposed on drinkers through these particular avenues, the Northern Territory's slice of the cake is very small indeed. In fact, there would not be a great saving to the consumer at all if we did away totally with the levy of a licence fee on all light beer products. I think the proposal has so much merit that I asked that the item be listed on the agenda for the Health Minister's Conference to be held in May. Not only does this have an effect on the government's coffers but there is also a great deal of expenditure made in the area of health that could be avoided if people were not consuming the very high amount of alcohol they are at the moment. I have also asked my colleagues who are involved with the federal excise people to have the matter raised at their interstate and federal ministerial meetings so that the matter can be reviewed by state and federal government at both the Health and Treasury levels.

1336 Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it the government's intention to oppose the Aboriginal land claim over Willowra?

ANSWER

I would imagine that our people would be assessing the claim books and other evidence that is submitted by the persons put forward as traditional owners to establish the degree of attachment with the land necessary to maintain their claim. I would imagine that our attitude would be determined accordingly. We would be still under the obligation imposed under section 50 of the act to put forward any relevant information in relation to the various factors set out in that section. I certainly would not construe that as being opposition to the claim.

1337 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS

Is the government planning any more quarter-acre subdivisions in the rural area for the use of government personnel in service sections of the public service?

ANSWER

To my knowledge, the developments to which the honourable member refers are not in fact formal subdivisions. The government owns a number of 320-acre parcels of land in the rural area near Darwin and, on these parcels, they have constructed a number of houses for housing prison officers and the like. I do not think the land has been sub-divided. If the honourable member is asking whether this type of development will continue, I would suspect that it will. The government will have to supply some accommodation for service people who are going to move into the rural areas near Darwin such as firemen, nurses, school teachers and the like. It obviously is quite impractical for the government to consider building a residence on five acres, in those situations, as is the normal style of living for rural Darwin. However, the land is available and there is no reason at all why we should not have a reasonably close settlement where the government is

providing accommodation for its public servants.

1338 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Will he table the Davis Report into the racing industry during the present sittings?

ANSWER

The answer is no. The report the honourable member refers to is the report commissioned by government to government and it will not be tabled.

1339 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How many of the gazetted fisheries officers are in the field on enforcement work under the Fisheries Act?

ANSWER

There are several categories of people authorised under the Fish and Fisheries Act to act as fisheries officers. The total is 18. There is 1 executive. There are 10 enforcement people: 1 senior enforcement person, 2 skippers of the patrol boats, 1 at Borroloola, 2 at Groote Eylandt and 4 at Darwin. In addition to these, there are several limited-tenure people in Darwin who travel out with the patrols but who are not gazetted as fisheries officers; 3 extension people who are mainly involved with Aboriginal fishing training; 3 foreign fishing liaison men who check foreign fishing vessels; 1 licensing man who is on 1 year's leave of absence; the Western Australian fisheries officers who are authorised to act in Northern Territory waters and vice versa; skippers of Navy patrol boats; all wildlife rangers; and all Northern Territory police officers.

1340 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

If the Australian railway is not to be used anymore, could the Australian railway commissioners be asked to sell the line or to lease it in small lots to primary producers for fencing or to other local people for other uses?

ANSWER

I am not responsible for the Australian National Railway. I understand that direct approaches can be made and that ANR would be quite happy to sell small lots of railway line. It is unlikely that they would cut up the main line at this stage but I suggest the honourable member refer her inquirer to the Commonwealth Railways direct.

1341 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it government policy not to disclose turnoffs from individual stations to interested members of the public?

ANSWER

I do not know for sure that we would want to inhibit the information process for people in the position of the honourable member. If he either wrote to me or put a question on notice, I will try to answer him.

1342 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Notwithstanding the rights of police officers, customs agents, skippers of Navy patrol boats, how many gazetted fisheries officers who are employed in the Fisheries Division field of enforcement are working in the field on enforcement?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, 10.

1343 Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

As the Queensland government has recently issued exploration permits within the Gulf of Carpentaria, could the minister advise the House what is the present situation with the allocation of permits within the Northern Territory section of the Gulf of Carpentaria?

ANSWER

Recently, there was an agreement between the federal government and the governments of Queensland and the Northern Territory to open up the Gulf of Carpentaria to oil exploration as quickly as possible. The Queenslanders have been in a better position than ourselves and in fact been able to let their areas for exploration at this stage. We are currently assessing applications that we have received from quite a few companies over 4 areas. These will be assessed by the federal Department of National Resources and also by the Bureau of Mineral Resources as well as our own Mines Department personnel and a recommendation will be brought forward in the next 2 or 3 weeks as to who should be the successful applicants for the areas.

1344 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

My question relates to the possible bus service in Alice Springs. When will he call for submissions from the Alice Springs people?

ANSWER

It has been recognised for some time that the residents of Alice Springs will need a service. It is a matter of definition and the extent of that service that we are concerned with at present. Submissions are being called and I will have consultants and senior officers in Alice Springs on 25 April for that express purpose. They will be able to talk to the honourable member's constituents.

1345 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Could he indicate the reason why the going rate per kilometre for school bus services in Darwin is just over $1 yet, in Alice Springs, it is between $3 and $4 per kilometre travelled? In fact, I think it is $4 per kilometre travelled.

ANSWER

I do not have any detailed information to supply to the honourable member except that it may have something to do with the fact that there is one tenderer in Alice Springs.

1346 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the present price of petrol and the estimates of its future price, what steps are the government taking to accommodate the expected increased demand for public transport?

ANSWER

The honourable member is well aware of one major step that has already been processed through this parliament and that has accelerated greatly the usage of public transport in this city. There are many other measures that the government will wish to undertake and I would like to talk about it some other time. Perhaps the honourable member could place the balance of the question on notice.

1347 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware of problems with the child-minding provisions of the Child Welfare Ordinance in that children of different ages in the same family have to attend different child-minding centres in Darwin? Will he have this matter investigated to overcome this inconvenience to those families concerned?

ANSWER

I am aware of the problem. However, we have recently debated the report on the welfare needs of the Northern Territory. It was one of the recommendations of that report that the legislation dealing with children be attended to. It is the intention of the government to analyse and evaluate those recommendations and presumably amend the legislation. I have given an undertaking to the people who are operating child-care centres that before the new regulations are brought into being, they will be given an opportunity to provide some input. At the moment, child-care centres are registered for looking after up to 28 children between 8.30 am until 3.00 pm. They are running into problems after 3.00 pm because children are being placed into these centres after leaving school. This is affecting the numbers. The regulations governing this matter have not been enforced since the cyclone but officers of my department have begun recently to enforce these regulations. This is why the concern has now arisen. The centres may have 28 children but also receive an extra 2 or 3 children in the afternoon. Consequently, the centre must put on another staff member because there must be 1 adult employee for every 8 children. However, the matter is under investigation and, as soon as regulations come to hand later on this year, they will be circulated to the family day-care centres for their consideration.

1348 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Will any assistance be given to the Northern Territory Riders and Drivers Association to shift the Speedway from its present location? When is it likely that the Speedway will be shifted to Hidden Valley?

ANSWER

Assistance has already been paid to the Northern Territory Riders and Drivers Association. Last year, $150,000 was given to them when negotiations were finalised on the Hidden Valley lease and the number of sporting organisations involved in that particular lease. I under-

stand that the Riders and Drivers Association has negotiated with the city council for one more season's use of Bagot Park Speedway on the understanding that they will concurrently develop facilities at Hidden Valley. I am not completely familiar with all those details but that is the situation as I understand it. Certainly, they have been paid the amount of compensation that the government agreed to.

1349 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will he indicate a clear date by which the Speedway will cease to operate on its present site in McMillans Road? Its operation there is causing stress and concern to people who are subdividing land in the area.

ANSWER

I ask her to place the question on notice.

1350 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the number of music teachers in the Territory been increased this year? Is he initiating a program whereby we will have more teachers placed in most of the schools in the Territory?

ANSWER

I am at a loss to know what the honourable member means by "this year". If he is referring to this financial year, the answer is yes. I understand the number is about 10. If he is referring to this academic year, the answer would be no because members would realise there is nothing expressly relating to music teachers in the revised estimates or the Appropriation Bill No 2. The government is anxious that all forms of specialist teachers be provided in sufficient numbers to develop the necessary programs. However, difficulty is foreseen in providing specialist music teachers because of certain attitudes of the Australian Teachers Federation and the Northern Territory Teachers Federation. For reasons which I think have some validity, they subscribe to the industrial principle that, for a person to be a member of the teaching service, he must also be a teacher.

The problem is that some of the very best music teachers available to us are people who hold degrees in music but who do not have 3 years' teacher training. Until these industrial issues are overcome, the number of people available to us who are not only qualified teachers but also qualified music teachers is somewhat limited. This is a matter for discussions with the unions. As honourable members are aware, our own Northern Territory Teaching Service will be introduced during the course of this sittings. I hope that the commissioner of that service, the permanent head of the department and the federation would have regard to the nature of the needs of the Northern Territory. While it may be easy in the larger cities to obtain teachers who are qualified as teachers and in music, we find it very difficult to find people with both sets of qualifications. While I can understand the philosophy of requiring people who are in classrooms to have teaching qualifications, I think the other side of the coin has to be looked at as well.

1353 Mr VALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can the minister supply any further information pertaining to the apparently poor response to the Liquor Commission's questionnaire from the Alice Springs High School?

ANSWER

I understand that the questionnaires were delivered to the Alice Springs High School and that a response of between 90% and 95% was obtained from the students. In accordance with instructions from an officer of the Liquor Commission, those responses were delivered to the Handyman Building office of the commission in Alice Springs. In addition to that, there were a number of late responses from students and those were mailed to the headquarters of the Liquor Commission. I understand that it must have been those mailed responses which were in fact referred to in the Liquor Commissioner's report. My department is completely unaware of the whereabouts of the hundred of other responses which were provided. Quite clearly, the students of Alice Springs High School responded magnificently to the questionnaires and anything I might have said the other day which would have cast any doubt on their efforts is withdrawn. If I remember rightly, I did not say anything. Certainly, the truth of the matter appears to be that a large bundle of responses went astray somewhere between Alice Springs and Darwin.

1354 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the uranium mining booklet which was produced by the Northern Territory government been distributed to the public and, if so, to whom and in what numbers?

ANSWER

I would ask him to put his questions on notice.

1355 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Could he tell me if the Williamson report will be presented to the Legislative Assembly and debated?

ANSWER

It is not proposed to table the Williamson report. It has been distributed to interested parties, some 49 people in all, and the report is providing us with a good base for consultation with the various parties concerned. At this stage, the fire-fighters have presented their views and priorities and they agree with the majority of the recommendations. The officers federation and Chief Fire Officer have arranged meetings for this week. Copies of the Fire Brigade Acts from New South Wales and Victoria have been received and those from other states have been sought so our proposed legislation will incorporate all the latest features. I will provide the honourable member with further information at a later time.

1356 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What progress has been made in granting subdivision leases to private developers for the development of residential subdivisions in the electorate of Sanderson?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will be making a statement on the matter raised by the member for Sanderson in the House tomorrow morning. It would be more appropriate to answer that question then.

1357 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The minister has been talking for some time about providing a library facility for the Darwin area. When will a library be provided to service the city area?

ANSWER

At the moment, the Department of Community Development, through the Department of the Transport and Works, is negotiating to secure premises in the new Paspalis Centrepoint project in Smith Street. If those negotiations are successful, I would imagine that a new library in Darwin will be provided when Centrepoint opens. I believe the opening date is 17 October this year.

1358 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I appreciate that there have been press releases on this subject. Can he inform me when the Sadadeen subdivision will be commenced?

ANSWER

I do not have that information to hand. At present, I am aware that a senior officer of the Lands Department will be travelling to Alice Springs within the next few days to assess the situation in Alice Springs. We propose to move towards private subdivisions in Alice Springs at the earliest possible date.

1359 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. It concerns the closure of the Roper Bar Road to heavy traffic. What is the government's intention in relation to this road?

ANSWER

It is fairly common practice to close roads such as this in times of heavy rainfall. Nevertheless, the department is planning to seal the road from Roper Valley to Ngukurr but, unfortunately, this may take another couple of years for the planning process. It is on the program for 1982-83.

1360 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has there yet been any settlement regarding the disputes concerning the Collia tin mine and what are the latest developments in this matter?

ANSWER

I fear to say too much because I understand the matter is sub judice. For that reason, I ask that the question be placed on notice.

1361 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Did the government in fact make huge profits on the sale of residential land at the recent auction as reported in the newspaper yesterday?

ANSWER

It is not true to suggest that the Territory government is profiteering at the expense of buyers of residential land. The fact is that the development of fully serviced land is a significant cost to government and has been a drain on Territory governments for a very long time. The provision of roads, stormwater drains, electricity and water services is not cheap, particularly in the Northern Territory where we suffer the cost disabilities which result from isolation. Information that has been supplied to me of a comparative analysis between a recent auction and the one before it was that the average price,including unpaid balances which is the difference between the bid and the reserve price, of $10,794 for the most recent auction compares with $12,642 average price for the auction prior to October last year. In the unrestricted section of the auction last weekend when some 50 R1 sites were sold, including 7 what might be classed as prestige sites in Darwin, the average price paid was $15,800 which

compares with the average price of $15,600 paid for R1 sites sold at the unrestricted auction in October. The most recent auction did not produce any particularly unusual trends in the sale of R1 sites and, indeed, the cost of servicing land in the Territory at the present time, by the government anyway, is something in the vicinity of $12,000 per block and that is excluding external services such as head-works for water, sewerage etc. Therefore, it is untrue to say that the government is reaping huge profits from the sale of land as was implied in yesterday's N T News.

1362 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I refer to the grant-in-aid for $150,000 which was mentioned in the Auditor-General's report. Last week, the minister was unable to tell us who that grant went to. Can he now inform the Assembly who received that money?

ANSWER

The Motor Drivers and Riders Association, which represents the Bagot Park Speedway, received the $150,000. That amount was part of a $201,000 grant. The balance of $51,000 went to other organisations which are related to motor sports and which are moving to Hidden Valley.

1363 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will money be allocated in the 1980-81 financial year for the redevelopment of Dhupuma Residential College?

ANSWER

In the lead up to any budget, no minister can commit Cabinet to expenditure in the month of February. Nonetheless, my department is very much aware of the urgent need to take steps to overcome serious accommodation problems which exist at Dhupuma College both in the residential sense and in class facilities. The problems are compounded by the fact that the government has inherited a very old facility which was formerly a tracking station. The principal problem is the supply of electricity. Subject to advice from my colleague, the Minister for Transport and Works, and the Electricity Commission, it would be most appropriate to install mains electricity to that school prior to relocating it or upgrading it. The taxpayers' bill for maintaining the powerstation in its present form and with the transport costs of diesel fuel is enormous. That is one problem that needs to be overcome and I understand the cost could be around $300,000. Stage 1 of any development project at Dhupuma College would cost over $2½m.

The staff at Dhupuma College would probably be among the most dedicated of our educational institutions in the Northern Territory. It is very rare for a minister to name officers in parliament but I think that the principal, Neil Barry, would not mind if I named him here for the enormous effort he puts into Dhupuma College.

The accommodation facilities out there are pitiful, particularly for people who are asked to behave in a professional manner and who are trained as such. The department is letting a tender in February for 2 new demountables for that area. Hopefully, they will be on site and occupied by the end of April.

The general question of upgrading the facility, Mr Speaker, is one for Cabinet in its general budgetary considerations. Certainly, when you are talking about that sort of money and that sort of recurrent cost and bearing in mind the efforts put in by the staff out there, I point out that we could probably send all of those students to Geelong Grammar in Melbourne for the price of educating each of them at Dhupuma College. In consideration of the enormous amounts of money required to run that institution, we have to think beyond just primary training or preparatory training for the Nhulunbuy Area School. The principal, Neil Barry, has put propositions to us relating to short courses in technical training. In fact, he is already doing this of his own motion. During periods when primary students are not occupying the residential facilities, the government is closely examining the possibility of using these as an East Arnhem TAFE training school for the purpose of assisting community councils in employing their own people in a range of functions from motor mechanics to routine house maintenance. In other words, in any consideration of the development of Dhupuma College, we must ensure that the overall program maximises the benefits from the taxpayer's dollar.

1364 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is it his intention to table in this House tomorrow details of the interesting proposals by the Greek community for the future use of Carpentaria College?

ANSWER

Yes.

1365 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What steps will be taken to do away with a large pond of black, evil-smelling water which is part of the Humpty Doo dump?

ANSWER

The short answer is that very little can be done. However, the chief Health Inspector states that the water does not pose any health problem. Other experts are of the opinion that it is probably better to keep all that water in the hole where it is now than have it polluting the environment. The problem will be monitored and I will be kept informed.

1366 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What steps is the government taking to ensure that the proposed new civil terminal at Darwin Airport is near the Stuart Highway and not near the populous northern suburbs.

ANSWER

I can only say that I admire the honourable member's spirit in this matter and that she is so concerned for her electorate in that there might be some additional noise created by siting the new terminal on the McMillans Road side of the airport. This matter is the subject of a joint working party of Defence, federal Department of Transport officials and Northern Territory government officials. I believe there

is some consensus as to where a future terminal might be sited and that it is somewhere between the corner of Bagot Road and McMillans Road Rapid Creek. I do not think it is a matter of agreeing with what the honourable member suggests. However, there will be further discussions on this matter at a later time.

1367 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

My question relates to recent publicity concerning alleged cruelty to wild horses in Central Australia. Can the minister advise the House what action, if any, the government proposes to take on this matter?

ANSWER

It is true that there is a feral animal problem in Central Australia, mainly wild horses. There has been some publicity of late about horses dying in transit to Victoria and horses being put down at railway yards in Central Australia. It is not an easy problem to cope with. The proposition being floated is that the horses might be transported to

Alice Springs to be killed for pet food. The government is looking at a proposal, through the Territory Development Corporation, to support a mobile killing facility. We hope that this might alleviate the problem. The dry conditions make an early decision on this very important to us and I will have further information later.

1368 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has V.B. Perkins yet signed a lease agreement with the Northern Territory Port Authority and, if not, can the minister supply me with an answer to question number 201 which has been on the notice paper since 21 November 1978? The question reads: "What is causing the delay in the signing of the lease agreement between V.B. Perkins and Company and the Northern Territory Port Authority?".

ANSWER

It certainly has been a considerable time since the honourable gentleman asked his question. It is with some pride, I suppose, that we can now say that the matter is closer to resolution. For some time, we have wrestled with the problem of leases in the Port Authority area. We have a vehicle for the administration of land in the Northern Territory through the Department of Lands and Housing. The whole question of tenure has been returned to that minister and his department. There will be no leases issued by the Port Authority but I understand that the tenants on the foreshore of Frances Bay will soon be given leases under normal town area leasing conditions.

1369 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What are the plans for the remaining vacant blocks in Nhulunbuy which are owned by the Housing Commission?

ANSWER

The provision of government housing in Nhulunbuy has been a contentious point. For the first time, in the 1978-79 financial year, the Housing Commission commenced a program of constructing Housing Commission houses there. The area is the subject of a mining lease. The commission currently has 13 more blocks in Nhulunbuy to be used and plans are well advanced for the construction of 11 duplex units and two 3-bedroom houses. The duplex units will provide a mix of 14 single-bedroom and eight 2-bedroom units which will be available for the housing of public servants and the general public when they are completed. Tenders for this new capital works program in Nhulunbuy are due to be called during March this year.

1370 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The minister has told us this morning that the cheque for $150,000 referred to in the Auditor-General's Report was part of the total of $201,000 that went to the Darwin Motor Sports Complex. Can he advise the details of the cheque for $250,000 referred to in the Auditor-General's Report of last year?

ANSWER

My understanding is that that $250,000 was payment to the Corporation of Alice Springs for the additional infrastructure that they were building at their civic centre. The additional infrastructure

relates to the library.

1371 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Who made the decision to erect the 100 kilometre signs on the Stuart Highway and the Arnhem Highway at Howard Springs and Humpty Doo? How far does the limit extend down the Arnhem Highway as there are no speed limit signs as there are on the Stuart Highway?

ANSWER

The Department of Transport and Works has the responsibility for signs on the major highways and, although the speed restriction signs were authorised for the 10 kilometre peg, I understand they were not constructed and the 100 kilometre signs go right down the Arnhem Highway. I will advise the honourable member further after the results of the department's investigation.

1372 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has he yet received a report from his officers concerning the need for the protection of jenny crabs in the Northern Territory and could he also advise what research is being undertaken in this area?

ANSWER

The question of jenny crabs was under consideration by the department. I have the feeling that a submission will come forward from a new group which has some interest in fishing. We will consider the matter further at that time.

1373 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What approach is the government taking towards allowing government and privately-owned vacant blocks in the city area to be used for short-term parking purposes whilst alternate car parking facilities are being provided?

ANSWER

An approach was made to me on behalf of business houses in the Central Business District in Darwin to see whether some solution could be found for the short-term parking problems whilst the long-term ones were being dealt with. I undertook to that organisation to provide vacant government land in the Central Business District in Darwin for car parking for the Darwin City Council until such time as the government required the land. I also undertook that, in regard to privately-owned land in the Central Business District which was undeveloped, any owner of land who undertook to either use the area for car parking himself or offered it to some other organisation could do so until development was warranted. I undertook that no default notices would apply to such land. I am not sure what has been followed through by the city council. The Department of Lands and Housing was instructed to advise them of this stance and private owners have been approached to ascertain their attitude towards using their land for this purpose.

1374 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What is being done to alleviate the problems of power generation in the township of Elliott?

ANSWER

As honourable members know, there was an extraordinary failure of power at Elliott recently. One of the generators blew up and that is not so extraordinary when one considers the treatment that such machinery gets from the people who are supposed to look after it. However, in this case the machinery was salvaged from the cyclone and taken to Elliott at a time when it was needed. It served a very useful purpose but, unfortunately, to overcome load problems, they tried to couple the switch board, which was designed to take only 1 engine at a time, to take both engines simultaneously. It did not work and, consequently, the 2 engines and the switch board blew up and left the town without power. There was difficulty in reorganising generators of a satisfactory size to continue to supply power to the community. NTEC took a portable generator down and hooked it into the system. In the long term, the ultimate aim is to provide, at a cost of about $170,000, 2 semi-transportable generators on site of 200 KVA size. They should provide ample power for the town. The wiring system in the town will be upgraded so that the fluctuations will no longer occur. The upgrading will also enable the Aboriginals at Anthony's Camp to be put onto the town reticulation system so that they too can have power. At this stage, the wiring is so poor at the southern end of Elliott that there is no way that an additional connection could be made without restricting power to everybody in the town.

One cause of the problem in the first place was the general improvement in the living and working conditions in the town. Many people who did not previously own air-conditioners have now installed them. Many of those who had evaporative conditioners which use a small amount of power have transferred over to refrigerated air-conditioning units which use quite a bit of power. The problem has now been solved and will be fixed permanently in the next 12 months.

1375 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Following the remarks I made in the adjournment debate last night, can he advise when he will be making a decision on whether special benefits will be extended to those pensioners who are not presently eligible under his pensioner scheme? I refer of course to those in receipt of social security special benefits.

ANSWER

I was approached several months ago by some ladies who represented the Timorese Association with a request that the government provide concessions for their people. I requested my department to prepare a paper on how it could be done. Officers of my department have advised me that it would be very difficult to implement a scheme which will enable me to provide assistance to the ethnic groups in that area. Until such time as we can come up with a workable plan that will assist us in providing those concessions, I am unable to give the honourable member an answer one way or another. It is felt that, unless we can have a scheme which will protect the taxpayer's money and which is not open to abuse, it will be very difficult for us to make such plans.

1376 CHIEF MINISTER to Mr PERKINS (MacDonnell)

Mr Speaker, I have a question that I wish to put under Standing Order 91 to the honourable member for MacDonnell who has sponsored amendment schedule No 164 in respect of the Liquor Bill Serial 374. My question

relates particularly to a proposed amendment 164.2 which sets out a new clause which proposes to provide an appeal from decisions of the commission to the Supreme Court. I would ask the honourable member for MacDonnell the reason for his apparent dissatisfaction with the operations of the commission which caused him to put forward this amendment.

ANSWER

I ask the Chief Minister to place his question on notice.

1383 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

I would remind him of the publicity given early last year to the NTEC application to the minister for a gas exploration licence in the Boneparte Gulf. Can he tell the House whether he approved NTEC's application and, if so, what exploration results have so far been achieved?

ANSWER

The area for which NTEC made an application involves 2 or 3 other companies. I stand to be corrected here, but I am also of the view that one of the land councils also placed an application for the same area. The events took place some time ago and I think it best that the question be placed on notice. I will have chapter and verse about the incident put on paper for the honourable member so that he is aware of the facts.

1384 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES

Rural consumers beyond the McMinn's substation are not happy about the frequency and length of power failures. What is being done to improve this situation?

ANSWER

NTEC have commenced a program of upgrading the McMinn's substation and the reticulation of the whole area. I am quite confident that the people in that area will get a great deal of satisfaction from the new arrangements made by NTEC.

1385 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I refer him to the question I asked without notice on Thursday 22 November 1979: is it his intention to institute any form of inquiry into the handling of the dog problem in Darwin by the corporation prior to the passage of the Dog Bill as requested by 1,695 people of Darwin? What were the results of his considerations?

ANSWER

After taking into consideration the petitioners' request, the government strengthened the Dog Bill by inserting a clause which will make it illegal for anybody to entice a dog from somebody's property - penalty $200. I thought it more appropriate to introduce the Dog Bill. At the meeting that was held by the SPCA at Darwin High School, a motion was passed that a welfare inquiry be set up. I received correspondence from Dr Jan Hill requesting that this particular instrument be implemented. The animal welfare inquiry will relate to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance and I am now waiting for a decision from the Chief Minister to see whether that particular inquiry will be set up.

In relation to the request of the petition that a full scale inquiry be implemented to investigate that problem, I have not made up my mind yet.

1386 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can the minister advise the House of any proposals the government has to set up a bus service in the township of Katherine?

ANSWER

There is a general upsurge of interest in bus services in communities such as Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy. We are receiving many representations. I indicated to the member for Alice Springs that submissions would be invited from the public as to the requirements for or the extent of a bus service for that city. I have asked the consultants to continue their studies in the 3 other main centres. Until those studies are completed, obviously I could not give a definite answer that there would be a bus service established in any 1 of them. I will be asking the consultants to look also at the taxi services in those cities and I should have a report in the next couple of months.

1387 Ms D'ROZARIO to THE TREASURER

Is the construction of the casino at Mindil Beach behind schedule and, if so, what is the cause of the delay?

ANSWER

As honourable members will know from advertisements in the newspapers the company which has the licence to conduct casinos in the Northern Territory, Federal Pacific Hotels, has been calling tenders to build the casino at Mindil Beach. These close on the last day of this month. The projected time scale for completion of the program is delayed and has been extended by some 5 months. About mid-1982 is the projected completion date. I will be able to make a more definitive anouncement on this when the tenders have been received and evaluated by the company. The reason for the delay in going to tender has been that the site at Mindil Beach has required much preparatory work, including the sinking of many hundreds of concrete piles into the ground to establish a firm foundation. This work has been completed and the design work has been completed.

1388 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

The Northern Territory government provides assistance to certain Northern Territory families who send their children to approved schools in Queensland. Has any consideration been given to extending the subsidy to parents who wish to send their children to schools in other states.

ANSWER

The approved schools to which the honourable member refers are private schools in Queensland which receive a direct subsidy from the Queensland government in respect of Queensland children who attend them. The decision was taken some time before the transfer of the education function to the Northern Territory to subsidise parents in the Northern Territory who send their children to those schools so that those children will not be disadvantaged in comparison with their peers. New South Wales recently introduced a similar scheme so I have recently approved an extension of the policy to include parents who send their children to private schools in New South Wales. These are mainly people from isolated areas who have no alternative but to send their children south for secondary education in particular. I understand that some of the other states, including Victoria and South Australia, are contemplating a similar subsidy to private schools in respect of boarding students. That policy of the Northern Territory would then flow on to those schools if that happened.

1389 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware that, since the Nelson Building was handed over to the Department of the Chief Minister about 5 weeks ago, no effective adjustments have been made to the air-conditioning in that building in spite of the barrage of complaints? I might add that you start to feel like a stunned goanna on a hot road after a day in the place.

ANSWER

I do realise there is some sort of a menagerie enclosed in the building but I did not know there were any goannas over there. I do not know the position with the air-conditioning. I know that I suffer in the Chan Building especially over the long hours I while away on the weekends. No doubt, that problem should be rectified as soon as possible. I will advise the department of it.

1390 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When can we expect the Director of Community Development to establish a system for the provision of car stickers to handicapped drivers as I was advised by letter on 10 January 1980?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place this question on notice.

1391 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What arrangements have been made for General Danby, who is the Secretary for the British Colombia Commission of Inquiry into Uranium Mining and whose itinerary is being arranged by the honourable minister, to meet members of the committee of this House set up to inquire into the effects of uranium mining in Kakadu National Park?

ANSWER

I had the good fortune to meet General Danby in Canada recently. He advised me of his impending trip to Australia and I extended to him an invitation on behalf of the Northern Territory government to come to the Northern Territory to meet my colleagues, members of the Assembly, mining companies, the Northern Land Council and any other parties that had an interest in the uranium scene in the Territory.

I am aware that the honourable gentleman's arrangements are in train. I cannot tell the honourable member whether there is a specific time set aside for General Danby to meet the House committee which is looking into the environmental aspects of the uranium province. I am quite prepared to speak to the organisers to see that a meeting is accommodated. I would point out that the General is on a rather limited time schedule. We have extended to him an invitation to have a look at all the mines and any other areas that he feels are of interest such as the Rum Jungle area. We are prepared to provide departmental support, advice and people to show him around. If anybody would like to accompany him on the tour, I have no objections and I am sure the General would be quite pleased to have them along as company.

1392 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can the Chief Minister advise the House whether or not the Northern Territory Police Force will use tracker dogs in their search and rescue operations?

ANSWER

Yes, the use of dogs is being considered in a number of areas by the police force. The commissioner is looking at various recommendations on the subject.

1393 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

Can he advise the House of any progress which has taken place on the taking over by the Northern Territory government of those hostels now owned by the Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services and which were formerly known as the Commonwealth Hostels Ltd?

ANSWER

The honourable Leader of the Opposition is wrong. The hostels now belong to the Northern Territory government. The government has entered into an arrangement with the Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services to administer the hostels on behalf of the government for a period of 12 months while the government re-assesses their future use. The government will be administering the hostel through the Housing Commission and will be using organisations like the Commonwealth Catering Service to operate the hostels. At the expiration of the current agreement with those people, the hostels will be offered to all parties which are interested in operating them.

1394 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Following on from a letter dated 10 August 1979 and remarks passed by the minister recently, has he made a final assessment of the situation regarding the proposed sand-mining by ABM at Howard Springs?

ANSWER

The application by ABM to mine in Howard Springs has not been rejected outright. We have told the company that we are not prepared to grant the lease that they have applied for but, rather than slam the door in their face, we asked them to negotiate with the department on other areas that they might find suitable.

1395 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

Are the operations of Darwin Home Locators, a real estate rental business, registered under the Land and Business Agents Act? If not, what action needs to be taken to ensure that the operations of this business are covered by the provisions of that act?

ANSWER

I am not able to give the honourable member an answer to her question. There are several thousand registered business names in the Northern Territory and, unfortunately, I am not able to carry an index regarding the registration or non-registration of these firms around with me. I suggest that the honourable member may even be able to satisfy herself quickly by attending at the Registrar-General's office and paying 50c to find out whether the firm is registered or not.

1396 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

Perhaps the Chief Minister misunderstood my question. I was not asking whether they were registered as a business name but registered under the Land and Business Agents Act for which he is responsible.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of whether it is registered under the Land and Business Agents Act. I will check the matter.

1397 Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

Is he able to inform the House as to the progress of Territory Loan No 2?

ANSWER

I am pleased to announce that support for Territory Loan No 2 has been encouragingly strong. The information I have, which is as recent as last night, is that the loan has been subscribed to the tune of 80%. The loan does not close until the end of this month. It is a very attractive loan in normal commercial terms with interests as high as 10.9%. Having regard to the rate that subscriptions are flowing in, if any people would like to participate in this loan, they had better hurry. It is important to note that the demonstrated support for the Territory's first 2 loans is a sign of investor confidence in the future of the Northern Territory and something of which all honourable members should be proud.

1398 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did the Fisheries Division of his department attempt to purchase lot 3430 Town of Darwin, the subject of a lease formerly held by Mr Carl Atkinson at Doctor's Gully and, if so, why did the transaction not proceed?

ANSWER

All purchases of government properties and lease accommodation are handled through the agency of the Department of Transport and Works. I would ask her to place the question on notice.

1399 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Are there any long-term plans for a continuing supply of sand, soil and gravel from the rural area to Darwin?

ANSWER

The short answer is yes. The geological section of the Department of Mines and Energy is investigating an area south-east of Darwin on the Koolpinya Station. It has rather an attractive prospect from the point of view of supplying sand and gravel. It will take some time to define the area and the amount of material there. As soon as we have some definite details of what we are mining and how much of it there is, I will advise honourable members.

1400 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When does the Northern Territory government intend to arrange for a state-type allowance to supplement the Commonwealth allowance for the education of children in isolated areas to bring it into line with all other states?

ANSWER

I know the electorate of Victoria River is somewhat remote from communications but it seems to me the honourable member has not seen a paper for the last 6 months. It has already been done and, in fact, the Northern Territory allowance exceeds that available in most states by way of supplement to the Commonwealth grant.

1401 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has any consideration been given to the variations in conditions of sand, gravel and soil licences and materials carted from the rural area in view of the gross deterioration caused to our rural roads by the continual use by loaded trucks?

ANSWER

That question has 2 parts: one relates to the roads and the other to the variations in the licences. We do have quite a variation in the way we issue licences for sand and gravel and heavy metal extraction. That situation should be rectified with the passage of the Mining Bill which is now before the House. We will have a more orderly manner of handling these particular licences. So far as the transport of these particular commodities are concerned over the roads in the rural area, it is not the function of the Mines Department to have an investigation on the state of the roads before a particular licence is issued for extraction. That is a function of the Department of Transport and Works. We would be more than happy to cooperate with that department or to come to some solution about damage being done to roads because of the activities of sand miners.

1402 Mrs LAWRIE to the TREASURER

Have any moneys been received from the Territory Insurance Office for ploughing back into the home finance and building industry as consistently portrayed in their rather clever advertisements on television?

ANSWER

Money has been received in this regard. The Territory Insurance Office has contributed to at least the first Northern Territory loan raising. As the honourable member will know, the loans are going towards the provision of funds for home construction, electrical work and other work. I am not sure whether Territory Insurance Office has or has not invested in the second Northern Territory loan.

1403 Ms D'ROZARIO to the TREASURER

Is he yet in a position to table the terms of the Commonwealth and Northern Territory housing agreement in this House.

ANSWER

The agreement has not yet been signed by both parties. If I recall rightly, it has been signed by the Northern Territory and we are awaiting receipt of the signed copy from the Commonwealth government.

1404 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will the first annual report of the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs be tabled in the Assembly.

ANSWER

The report is now with the printer. Hopefully, it will be tabled in the April sittings of this Assembly.

1405 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Following on requests made for consideration of a mobile library in the rural area dating back to the letter to the previous minister on 19 January 1979 and to the minister during that year, when can we expect some direct action?

ANSWER

I have made a request to my department to include in the 1980-81 appropriation funds provision for a mobile library service to the rural area. I am unable to give the honourable member any further information.

1406 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What arrangements, if any, have been made between the Territory and the federal government to allow the purchase of homes rented by Commonwealth employees who are keen to remain in the Territory?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government has consistently lobbied the federal government to encourage that government to change its policy and allow Commonwealth public servants in the Northern Territory to purchase their houses. The Chief Minister has written to the relevant federal minister, Mr Groom, and in fact has received correspondence that they are actively pursuing a

review of their policy on this matter. We hope that they change the policy to allow Commonwealth public servants to settle and buy their homes in the Territory. Hopefully, we will receive some advice on the matter at an early date.

1407 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I wrote a letter to the Minister for Lands and Housing on 19 December regarding the status of roads in the Acacia Hills area. The minister said that he would pass this letter on to the Roads Division of the Transport and Works Department. When can I expect a reply?

ANSWER

I will find out when the honourable member can expect a reply and let her know.

1408 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will the minister have investigated the possibility of having lifts installed at the Hudson Fysh Housing Commission complex as has been done at the Kurringal complex which is also 4 storeys high.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will raise the matter with the Housing Commission on behalf of the honourable member.

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PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

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QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 1 MAY 1980

FROM 28 NOVEMBER 1978

201 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is causing the delay in the signing of the lease agreement between V.B. Perkins and Company and the Northern Territory Port Authority, a matter which has now been in dispute for exactly 6 years?

FROM 20 NOVEMBER 1979

1139 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Bearing in mind that the price of vegetables in Alice Springs is sometimes double that in Adelaide, and that the so-called Alice Springs "farm area" is plagued by salt problems, will the minister advise what steps will be taken to provide a more suitable alternative area for the production of farm produce in the centre?

FROM 12 FEBRUARY 1980

1157 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he inform the House of the electricity needs of an uranium enrichment plant and the cost of establishment of such a plant?

1213 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What were the amounts of the 3 loans made to the North Australian Baptist Homes Trust in relation to hostels in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs?

2. How much has been repaid?

3. If these properties are surrendered, will the loans be 'extinguished'?

4. Under what terms will the loans be 'extinguished'?

1214 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What were the amounts of the 3 loans made to the Church of England, Carpentaria College Inc.?

2. How much was repaid?

3. What are the terms under which these loans were 'extinguished'?

1218 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In answer to a question asked on Tuesday 13.11.79 the minister said environmental inspectors can work after hours and on weekends to maintain surveillance over some of the illegal mining in the rural area.

How many man hours have been taken up with this work since this reorganisation, what areas have been under surveillance, at what time of day and how much illegal sand and gravel mining was found?

1221 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. When is the Mines Safety Control Act expected to commence?

2. When will regulations to this Act come into existence?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 1 MAY 1980

1225 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Why has the Survey Branch sole occupancy of a building on a residential block in Third Street, Katherine, when residential land is at a premium in the town?

2. Are there special circumstances, such as refusal by the Public Service Commissioner to pay adequate travelling allowance or camping allowance, which make spasmodic occupancy of this building essential?

FROM 19 FEBRUARY 1980

1267 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Has he attempted to persuade the government to base him in Alice Springs instead of Darwin?

2. If so, why is he still based in Darwin?

3. If not, will he do so?

1269 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. How many vehicles use the level crossing daily at the Larapinta Drive - Telegraph Terrace intersection in Alice Springs?

2. Is it true that a set of traffic lights will be installed at the intersection and crossing?

3. In the matter of arrangements being made for the standard gauge railway planning, what decision-making powers are held by -

   (a) the NT government;

   (b) the Alice Springs municipality; and

   (c) the Australian National Railways Commission?

4. In the event of a dispute over the location of the railway, is it true that the Alice Springs municipality can be over-ruled by the A.N.R.?

5. Will the minister supply a list, including dates, names of participants and the agenda of meetings which have been held between the A.N.R. and his department during the past 2 years and, if not, why not?

1301 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Who is responsible for the maintenance of internal service roads in Aboriginal communities?

2. Who is responsible for the maintenance of main access roads to Aboriginal communities?

3. Is the planning of main access roads to Aboriginal communities and internal service roads undertaken as a correlated construction exercise?

4. Who is responsible for the construction and maintenance of access roads to Aboriginal outstations?

5. Does the government offer on-site technical assistance to Aboriginal communities in respect of road building?

6. Is there Aboriginal representation on the Rural Roads Board?

7. What safeguards exist to ensure the preservation of Aboriginal sacred sites which may be affected by road construction?

1303 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many students graduated from all courses last year at Kormilda College and Yirara College respectively?

2. What proportion of last year's graduates from Kormilda College and Yirara College respectively are now -

   (a) employed; and

   (b) unemployed?

1304 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Considering that the minister advised the Ilpapa Association in November 1979 that arrangements for electricity supply were to proceed, when will the Association be provided with suitable electricity supply?

1305 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is it a fact that an organisation or incorporated body must first obtain the approval of the NT Department of Education in order to be eligible for a grant from the Schools Commission Innovations Committee and, if so, why?

2. What criteria are used by the Education Department in assessing an organisation's performance or goals in respect of approvals from the Schools Commission Innovations Committee?

3. Is it a fact that the Education Department has refused to approve the activities of the Yipirinya School in Alice Springs in conjunction with 2 applications for a grant from the Schools Commission Innovations Committee made in 1978 and 1979 and, if so, why?

4. Does an "independent school" within the terms of the Education Act require approval from the Education Department in order to be eligible for a grant from the Schools Commission Innovations Committee?

5. What is the government's policy on Aboriginal self-management in education?

6. Is it a fact that the Principal Education Adviser for the Alice Springs region recently informed the Yipirinya Council that the best solution for the Council is to become a part of the Education Department and, if so, why?

7. Does the minister plan to support other education proposals similar to the Yipirinya School?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 1 MAY 1980

FROM 22 APRIL 1980

1377 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the uranium mining booklet, produced by the NT government, been distributed to the public?

If so, to whom and in what numbers?

1380 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that in October 1979 some 227 people appeared on more than 600 charges in the Alice Springs Court?

2. Is it a fact that some 90-95% of these charges were alcohol-related?

3. If so, what action does he propose to take to reduce the high incidence of alcohol-related crimes in the Territory?

4. Will the government undertake an analysis of the residential status/ background and the educational and cultural background of the majority of offenders before the courts in the Territory in order to construct a profile of the typical offender and to make available such data to interested community organisations?

5. If not, why not?

1409 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has there yet been any settlement regarding the disputes concerning the Collia tin mine and what are the latest developments in this matter?

1410 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Did the minister approve NTEC's application for a gas exploration licence in the Bonaparte Gulf?

2. If so, what exploration results have so far been achieved?

1414 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. When will model by-laws be available for use by the Territory's 4 local government councils?

2. Is it a fact that the Local Government Act will require amendment if the model by-laws are to be implemented effectively by the 4 local government councils and, if so, what action has he taken, if any, to review the act and to facilitate the operation of the new by-laws?

1421 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What steps will the government take to protect NT producers of food-stuffs such as beef, poultry, eggs and agricultural and horticultural products against producers in other states?

1425 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What are the details of the feasibility study carried out for the proposed Northern Territory takeover of the federal government's share in the Ranger uranium mine?

1426 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What pastoral properties have changed hands so far this financial year?

2. How many of these are owned by overseas interests?

3. How many pastoral properties owned by overseas interests are now shipping their cattle direct to overseas markets?

1427 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Did the Minister for Community Development explore the possibility of maintaining the fresh milk supply for Gove? If not, why not?

2. If the government did examine the milk supply situation, what was the outcome of its examination of the problem?

1429 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. When will the replacement for the Administrator, Mr England, be known?

2. Has the Northern Territory government forwarded any name or names for the position of Administrator?

1430 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How has the initial $119,000 hospitality grant been spent this year?

2. Who were the VIP's, visiting officials and others entertained by the Northern Territory government via the hospitality fund?

3. What is the extra $41,000 in the mini-budget needed for?

4. Does this mean that the hospitality fund has run dry and, if so, when?

5. How much of the hospitality allocation has been spent on -

   (a) liquor; and

   (b) food?

6. Who oversees the hospitality expenditure?

7. What is the hospitality estimate for the next 2 financial years?

8. When are the peak periods for hospitality expenditure?

9. How many restaurant bills have been paid for by the Northern Territory government so far this financial year out of the hospitality account and how much does this total?

10. How much has each minister spent on hospitality so far this financial year?

1433 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Why did the person, charged with setting up the hospitality course at the Central Australian Community College, resign?

2. What steps are being taken to find a replacement?

3. When is it anticipated the hospitality course will start?

4. Does the Northern Territory government feel there is any urgency for such a course to be started in the centre?

1434 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In respect of the Home Loans Scheme which came into operation on 1 October 1979 -

(a) how many loans have been approved;

(b) how many loans have been approved for applicants who were, at the time of application, tenants of the Northern Territory Commission;

(c) how many loans have been approved in -

(i) Darwin;
(ii) Alice Springs;
(iii) Katherine;
(iv) Tennant Creek; and
(v) Nhulunbuy; and

(d) how many loans have been approved for which the starting interest rate is -

(i) 4 %	(iv) 5.5 %	(vii) 8 %
(ii) 4.5 %	(v) 6 %	(viii) 9 %
(iii) 5 %	(vi) 7 %	(ix) 10 % ?

1435 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did the Fisheries Division of the Department of Primary Production attempt to purchase lot 3430, Town of Darwin, and other land in the near vicinity, the subject of a lease formerly held by Mr Carl Atkinson at Doctors Gully; and, if so, why did the transaction not proceed?

1438 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is he aware that block 295, Condon Street, Katherine is zoned R8 for the erection of 6 flats with a UCV of $4,680 and that the Katherine Council will not permit the building of flats because of its intention to rezone the block as R1 for normal residential use with a UCV of $1,700?

2. Will he take action to resolve the anomaly?

1441 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Is the drilling section of the Mines Branch up to establishment? If not, why not?

2. Is it the policy of the Northern Territory government to use more contract drillers than used to be the case and, if so, why?

3. What will the new Warman drilling rig be used for and who will operate it?

1442 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did the minister ever seek to reach an agreement with Mr Carl Atkinson, the owner of the Doctors Gully Fish Reserve, to purchase the reserve for his own personal use? If so, what price was offered?

1443 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Have any officers of the Territory Development Corporation an interest in any projects for which loans of the Territory Development Corporation have been given? If so, would the minister supply details?

1445 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he make representations to ensure that telegram and telex charges for goods ordered by these means and freight costs are not included in the calculation of sales tax on the goods?

1447 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many $1,000 banquets have been held by the NT government so far this financial year?

2. For whom were these banquets held?

3. Where were they held and how many people attended each one?

4. How much has been paid out for airfares from the hospitality fund so far this financial year and for whom?

5. How many cartons of scotch whisky have been bought by the hospitality section so far this year?

6. What is the total restaurant bill charged to the hospitality account so far this year?

7. Who ran up these restaurant accounts?

8. Why was it necessary to appropriate an additional $41,000 to the hospitality account in the mini budget?

9. What is the total liquor bill for the hospitality account so far this year?

FROM 29 APRIL 1980

1449 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Can he state whether any companies connected with Sir Condor Laucke have (a) obtained, or (b) sought any Territory Development Corporation loan moneys?

2. If so, what are (a) the full details; and (b) interest rates in each case?

3. Did the Territory Development Corporation reject an application for a loan or assistance from an international company wanting to manufacture solar appliances in Darwin and, if so, why?

4. If such an application was rejected, was the decision made by (a) Cabinet, (b) the Territory Development Corporation, or (c) a minister; and (d) if made by a minister, which minister?

5. What is (a) the name; and (b) the paid-up capital of each company which has obtained a Territory Development Corporation loan?

6. Does the Territory Development Corporation liaise with the Department of Primary Production when evaluating the viability of loan applications in the rural area; if not, why not; and if so, with whom?

7. Is there any duplication of expertise in the Territory Development Corporation and the Department of Primary Production and, if so, in what areas?

8. Does the Corporation seek recommendations from the Department of Primary Production on all or only on specific applications for loans?

9. How many (a) interestate; and (b) overseas companies have received Territory Development Corporation loans and what is (i) the name of the company, (ii) the details of the loan, and (iii) the benefits to the Territory in each case?

10. How many companies, granted Territory Development Corporation loans, have (a) been unable to proceed, (b) failed to take up all the loan money because of inability to meet the corporation's requirements, (c) closed their operations within 6 months; and (d) applied for further funding to carry on?

11. If any companies were granted further funds from the corporation (a) what sums; and (b) for what reasons were the additional funds provided?

12. What sums has the Territory Development Corporation spent on (a) hospitality, (b) entertainment; and (c) travel from its establishment until 16 April 1980; and (d) what sums is it expected to spend in those areas during the next financial year?

13. What sum has been paid to the Chairman of the Territory Development Corporation for travelling allowance since his appointment until 16 April 1980?

14. What sums have been spent by the Chairman of the corporation on (a) hospitality; and (b) entertainment from the date of his appointment until 16 April 1980?

15. Have any companies or members of companies which have received Territory Development Corporation loan moneys been charged with criminal offences or breaches of company law since receipt of such loan moneys?

16. Does the corporation take precautions to (a) ensure that loans are made for ventures which are likely to succeed; and (b) protect its equity in ventures in the event of (i) company collapse, (ii) police seizure, and (iii) other events which could endanger the viability of the ventures; and (c) have the precautions proved adequate?

17. Have any corporation officers been offered bribes by applicants for loans; and, if so, (a) how many such offers were made; and (b) what action was taken in each case to report the offers to the government?

1450 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In respect of the 12 months ending 31 March 1980 -

1. How many applications for priority allocation of housing in Darwin were received by the Northern Territory Housing Commission?

2. What were the sources of referral for priority allocation of housing in Darwin?

3. How many of the applications were (a) lone fathers; (b) lone mothers; and (c) couples with children?

4. What were the main reasons given by applicants for seeking priority allocation of housing?

5. How many of the applications for priority allocation of housing were (a) approved; (b) rejected; (c) deferred; and (d) still undecided?

6. What were the main reasons for rejecting applications for priority allocation of housing?

1474 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Which departments have a departmental or parliamentary liaison officer?

1493 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has his attention been drawn to ultra low volume techniques for aerial spraying of insecticides?

2. Can he state whether the government has published advice that light breeze conditions may give better control of the spread of aerial sprays than the calm air conditions often applying about dawn, currently favoured by crop dusters and local authorities using herbicides?

3. What steps has his department taken to enforce the conditions for aerial spraying recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council, which has advised that herbicides are harmless if used as recommended?

4. Have breaches of these conditions been detected; if so, how?

1512 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What was the total cost to the Territory of proceedings commenced by the Attorney-General by way of prerogative writ in the High Court of Australia to challenge the Aboriginal Land Commissioner's findings on jurisdiction in the Utopia Aboriginal land claim case?

2. Why did the Attorney-General challenge the findings on jurisdiction by the Aboriginal Land Commissioner in the Utopia land claim?

3. What was the final outcome of this action by the Attorney-General in the High Court of Australia?

4. Does the NT government intend to oppose the Utopia Aboriginal land claim?

1513 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is Mr Ron Gould still employed as an organiser and co-ordinator of the so-called hospitality course at the Community College of Central Australia and, if not, why not?

2. If Mr Gould is no longer employed, who is now employed in the position he vacated?

3. Has the Community College Council endorsed a recommendation for the hospitality course to start in February 1980?

4. Why did the course not start in February 1980?

5. When will the (a) full-time units; and (b) part-time units of the course commence?

6. What are the names and qualifications of the staff employed (a) full-time; and (b) part-time to administer and teach in the hospitality courses?

7. What are the (a) titles; and (b) syllabuses of the units which come under the broad heading of the hospitality course; what accreditation has been gained for these units, and how many students will be admitted to the units?

8. How much money has been allocated this financial year for (a) staff; (b) equipment; and (c) consumables for the hospitality course?

1514 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDCUATION

1. Which company has the contract to transport schoolchildren in Alice Springs?

2. How many companies tendered for the job?

3. What were the tender prices submitted?

4. What is the cost per kilometre of transporting schoolchildren to school in (a) Alice Springs; and (b) Darwin?

1515 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer to his reply to a question asked on 13 February 1980 by the Member for Stuart concerning rehabilitation of the roadside and other areas through the hills north of Alice Springs, in which he said that his department had "spent in excess of $100,000 on repairs to some of the areas that have been damaged".

1. Can he confirm the statement attributed to him in the Centralian Advocate, 27 March 1980, that "$100,000 had been allocated to reclaim environmental degradation in the area"?

2. Has there been one or 2 allocations of $100,000 for this work?

3. Does his department regard the words "reclaiming", "repairing", "regeneration" and "rehabilitation" as synonymous with the term "cleaning up after the contractor"?

4. Was the sum of $73,384 expended on hire of a loader and dump truck for rehabilitation, reclamation, repair or regeneration?

5. Does his department normally allocate large sums of money to clean up after a contractor has completed a job; or is it normal practice for contractors to carry out such cleaning up work themselves and for the cost of this work to be taken into consideration when the tender is lodged?

6. Does further work need to be carried out to repair the damage caused by the road reconstruction; and, if so, what is (a) the nature of the work; (b) how much will it cost; and (c) when will it be completed?

7. Has work on rehabilitation and regeneration of the area been carried out?

1092 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

(a) What is the annual post-operative infection rate for the past 5 years for the Alice Springs hospital?

(b) Are comparative figures available over the same period for the major hospitals in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney and, if so, what are they?

ANSWER

(a) The overall post-operative infection rate at Alice Springs Hospital over the last 5 years has been 3.4%, 8.0%, 7.6%, 8.3% and 8.6% - the latter in 1978-79.

It should be appreciated that the post-operative infection rate clearly relates to the type of case so that the wound of a patient with a gangrenous appendix is more likely to be infected than one with an uninfected appendix.

(b) Comparisons with other hospitals are unreliable but one series available from a teaching hospital in Sydney varies from 2.9% for completely clean cases to 14.9% for potentially infected cases and 25.4% for heavily contaminated cases. The figure for Darwin Hospital for September 1979 was 1.2%.

1183 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why does the Motor Vehicle Registry no longer place on car registration stickers the date of expiry of registration of the car and the engine number of the car?

ANSWER

The printing of car details on registration labels was ceased in December 1978, as a major step in reducing waiting time for the public at the Motor Registry. Printing of these details would now require a separate typing process in addition to the existing computer system. This will lead to, once again, increased waiting time at the Motor Registry.

There is no legislative requirement for the printing of car details on the registration labels and, more importantly, the registration label is only indicative of registration and not proof of registration.

In order to print car details on the registration labels and at the same time maintain a reduced waiting time, the registration labels must be printed by the computer system which is an extremely costly method. It is used by the Canberra Motor Registry who have been unable to locate an ink which does not deteriorate once exposed to the elements of the weather.

1210 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why has the Darwin rural area, including Berrimah, only been given $80,000 for the re-gravelling of rural roads out of a total allocation of $11.5 million for repairs and maintenance?

ANSWER

The $11,500,000 referred to by the honourable member was in fact the original total amount for repairs and maintenance to all roads throughout the whole of the Territory as shown in Appropriation Act (No. 1) 1979-80. This figure has increased by $680,000 to $12,180,000 since Appropriation Act (No. 2) 1979-80 was assented to on 13 March 1980.

For the purpose of answering this question the Darwin rural area can be roughly defined as that area bounded by Berrimah to the north; Howard Springs and Humpty Doo to the east; Noonamah to the south; Elizabeth River to the west; and the area between Stuart Highway, Berry Springs and Darwin River Dam.

The repairs and maintenance allocation for this area amounts to $651,000 for 1979-80 of which $191,000 has been set aside for specific maintenance projects (including an $80,000 item to re-gravel various roads in the rural subdivisions) and the remaining $460,000 has been ear-marked for recurring maintenance such as grading road shoulders, slashing grass, patching as required, etc.

The NT government is committed to a program of improving roads throughout the Territory and has allocated large sums of money to achieve this goal.

As can be seen from the figures supplied above, the government is well aware of the road problems facing people living in the Darwin rural area and is working to bring all roads in the area up to a suitable standard.

1229 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What is the estimated operating costs of the small generators at the:

(a) 15-mile experiment farm;

(b) Katherine Gorge; and

(c) 14-mile caves?

ANSWER

(a) The Department of Primary Production has advised me that the operating costs of the generator at the Katherine experimental farm is $7,000.

(b) The Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission has advised that the operating costs of the generators at Katherine Gorge is $5,640.

(c) The Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission has advised that the operating costs of the generator at Cutta Cutta caves is $4,508.

These figures do not allow for depreciation of equipment.

1264 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

Could the Treasurer advise the Assembly as to the amount of the Treasurer's advance spent in the second quarter of the financial year 1979-80 and also the nature of that expenditure?

ANSWER

Against the advance to the treasurer of $12,251,000 appropriated in the budget, amounts totalling $170,000 had been advanced at 31 December 1979 to cover unforeseen departmental expenditure. These were payments by the Racing and Gaming Commission to the Darwin and Alice Springs Turf Clubs ($160,000) and the replacement of a motor vehicle ($9,098).

By 14 February (the date of introduction of the Second Appropriation Bill into the Legislative Assembly), a further $102,000 had been advanced to the Department of Lands and Housing to reimburse the Housing Commission for certain assets taken over by the Commission from the Australian National Railways Commission.

These expenditures were included in the Appropriation Act (No. 2) 1979-80 and have thus ceased to be a charge against Treasurer's advance.

The second Appropriation Act also provided for the re-allocation of funds held in advance to the treasurer to offset the effects of inflation as it has impacted departmental expenditure budgets. This re-allocation was in excess of $7 million and $4.9 million was retained to meet further inflationary effects and other unforeseen expenditures in the remainder of the financial year.

1265 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What was the cost of the trip to the recent PATA conference in Manila?

2. How many overseas trips have been undertaken by ministers on official business in the calendar year 1979?

3. What has been the total cost of these trips?

ANSWER

1. $20,256.

2. Seven.

3. Total $66,266.

1266 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many days travel allowance has been paid to the Minister for Education while in Darwin during the financial year 1978?

2. How many days travel allowance has been paid to the Minister for Education while in Darwin from 1 July 1979 to 31 December 1979?

ANSWER

1. 151.

2. 71.

1268 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Can the Minister for Health tell the Assembly how many people travel interstate for radiotherapy and associated treatment annually?

2. What is the cost to the Northern Territory government to provide this service?

3. Has a study been undertaken to determine whether this situation is a cost effective one over a 5-year period?

4. Has this severe dislocation been assessed in relation to the overall management of the disease and to the mental attitude of the patient involved?

ANSWER

1. For the calendar years 1978 and 1979 the following numbers of patients were evacuated interstate for radiotherapy and associated treatments under the Northern Territory Department of Health Medical Evacuation Scheme:

   1978: 56 (total evacuations for all purposes: 357); and
   1979: 11 (total evacuations for all purposes: 157).

   For the same period the following number of patients received assistance from the Commonwealth Department of Health for specialist radiotherapy referral interstate under the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS):

   *1978: number referred 5 (total referrals for all purposes: 31); and
   1979: Number referred 46 (Total referrals for all purposes: 462).

   * The IPTAAS scheme was introduced on 1.10.78.

2. Expenditure by the Northern Territory Department of Health was $21,900 in 1978 and $4,700 in 1979. These figures are approximations based on the average cost per patient during the 1978 and 1979 financial years.

   The IPTAAS scheme is administered by the Commonwealth Department of Health. There is no cost to the Northern Territory. Approximate federal expenditure was $2,000 in 1978 and $18,000 in 1979 (figures supplied by the Commonwealth Department of Health).

3. The question of cost effectiveness is not in fact the main consideration but rather the population required before a radiotherapy unit becomes a viable option, particularly from the view of clinical efficiency and the range of treatment offered. The accepted ratio is of the order of 1:500,000 population so that the Territory does not yet have a sufficiently large population to support such a unit especially when it is considered that the people in and around Alice Springs would probably still wish to go to Adelaide for treatment.

   However, insofar as costs are concerned the following will be of assistance:

   INITIAL OUTLAY

Cobalt teletherapy unit	$ 120,000
Treatment room and associated facilities	$ 150,000
Ancillary equipment	$ 20,000
TOTAL	$ 290,000

RECURRING EXPENSES (per annum)

Radiotherapist	$ 40,000
2 radiographers	$ 30,000
Nursing sister	$ 15,000
Ward staff	$ 20,000
Consumables	$ 10,000
Quinquennial source replacement (per year)	$ 6,000
	$ 121,000

The cost then would be about $411,000 for the first year and $121,000 per annum thereafter. This compares with a combined NT government/ Commonwealth government cost of $22,900 for 1978 and $23,000 in 1979.

4. The dislocation referred to is one of the disadvantages of living in remote communities and applies equally to patients living in remote areas within states with radiotherapy units - an example would be Western Australia which has a private and a public unit both based in Perth.

   On the positive side however a radiotherapy unit in a large centre inevitably is more skilled and efficient than a small unit serving a small number of people.

1270 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has the Steering Committee on Tourism been formed to date as part of the government's promised program announced last August to further heritage conservation and tourist development in the Northern Territory?

2. If not, why not?

3. If so, can the minister detail the committee's achievements and undertakings to date?

4. What action has the committee taken to ensure optimum involvement by all levels of government, community groups and the tourist industry in the task of furthering heritage conservation and tourist development in the Territory?

5. How will all regions and locations within the Territory benefit from the committee's programs?

ANSWER

No such committee named the "Steering Committee on Tourism" has been formed by the Northern Territory government.

The Northern Territory government has formed the "Northern Territory Heritage and Conservation Committee".

The Northern Territory Tourist Commission is represented on the Northern Territory Heritage and Conservation Committee.

I suggest you re-direct your question to the Minister for Community Development who is responsible for the Northern Territory Heritage and Conservation Committee.

1271 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Has the Department of Lands and Housing approved the lease application of the Ilpapa Association for a site adjacent to the Blatherskite Range, about 600 metres west of the Stuart Highway, Alice Springs?

2. If not, why not?

3. If so, why has the minister failed to inform either the Ilpapa Association or the Tangatjira Council of the decision?

4. Is the minister aware that in a letter dated 11 November 1979, the Minister for Transport and Works advised the Ilpapa Association that electricity connection to the site was to proceed?

5. Is it true that the minister subsequently advised NTEC not to proceed with the connection of electricity, claiming lack of support for the lease claim from the Departments of Health and Aboriginal Affairs?

6. Is the minister aware that the Central Regional Director of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, after receiving confirmation of support for the site proposal from the Secretary of Health, wrote to his department last month indicating his support for the site proposal?

7. In the light of documented support from the Departments of Health and Aboriginal Affairs, can the minister identify the obstructions currently facing the Ilpapa Association in the development of the site, and specifically in electricity connection?

8. Is it true that the minister visited Alice Springs last month?

9. Is it true that the minister stated in correspondence last September that he would offer alternative land to the Ilpapa Association on his next visit to Alice Springs?

10. If so, why did the minister fail to consult the Ilpapa Association on his last visit to Alice Springs?

ANSWER

1. No.

2. The application has been investigated in detail and the combination of a number of factors render the area unsuitable for residential purposes. The site adjoins the Ilpapa swamp and it is not possible to guarantee that the swamp and associated mosquito problem can be completely controlled at all times. Odours and smoke from the sewerage treatment lagoons and rubbish dump, although not a specific health hazard, further impair the residential amenity of the site. A study indicated that the cliff above the site is unatable and again, although preventative measures can be taken, this also mitigates against the value of the site for residential purposes.

3. The application was investigated in detail and the Ilpapa Association and Tangatjira Council were not notified until such time as alternative sites could be referred for their assessment. The applicants have now been requested to comment on the suitability of 2 alternative sites.

4. No. I am aware of such a letter dated 8 November 1979.

5. No. I did, however, give such advice to my colleagues the Chief Minister, Minister for Transport and Works and Minister for Mines and Energy on 26 September 1979 in light of advice available to me then.

6. Yes. However, the letter from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs reiterated past opposition and stated that because the Department of Health then appeared to favour the proposal, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs again supported the application.

7. The Department of Health by letter to the Regional Director, Department of Aboriginal Affairs, dated 21 January 1980, again raised the question of the mosquito problem. I assume this was because the proposal by Transport and Works to upgrade the effluent treatment plans had been modified. Other reasons are given in reply to Question 2. Electricity connection then becomes irrelevant.

8. Yes.

9. Yes.

10. Because the mosquito problem had been raised again and suitable alternative sites had not then been clearly identified.

1272 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Are members of the Northern Territory Police allowed to purchase their own hand-guns for official use and, if so, what regulations govern the ownership of these weapons?

2. Will the minister supply all the instructions and regulations governing the carrying and use of firearms by Northern Territory Police?

3. If not, why not?

ANSWER

1. Members of the Northern Territory Police Force may be granted pistol licences in connection with police duties, provided that -

   (a) such pistols shall be of a calibre and type approved by the Commissioner;

   (b) in the case of non-concealable pistols, they shall be carried on duty in a holster of similar colour, design, and the general dimensions as the current service issue pistol holsters; and

   (c) privately owned pistols shall be carried and used by members in compliance with all instructions applicable to the carriage and use on duty of service issue pistols.

   Area commanders are responsible for controlling the issue and carriage of firearms according to the nature of standing commitments, or special contingencies, e.g. payroll escorts, VIP escorts, etc.

2. Standing Orders: No. 17 ARMS - USE OF

   Use of Firearms by Police

   (i) There are 2 distinct purposes for which the Police are supplied with firearms, viz: -

(a) To place them on an equal footing with armed criminal malefactors, so that they may be afforded an opportunity of defending their lives against murderous attacks; and

(b) To assist them to prevent the escape of a felon who is fleeing from justice and who cannot by any other means be arrested.

According to the law, a felon is any person who has committed an offence punishable by death or by penal servitude for any term.

(ii) The use of firearms by the Police is a matter of the utmost importance, and demands an intimate knowledge of the law as well as the exercise of the greatest care and caution at all times.

The law jealously guards human life, and will not sanction the taking of it except in cases of extreme necessity.

Self-Defence

(iii) The law in regard to self-defence is very simple. It allows to every individual, whether policeman or civilian, the right of defending his life against wrongful attack by another. If by a wrongful attack the life of a constable is placed in immediate danger, he may lawfully use firearms against the person so attacking him, and this right exists at all times and under all circumstances, whether he is in the active execution of his duty as a constable or not. To justify the use of a firearm in self-defence, the threatened danger must be real and impending, not doubtful or remote. Difficulty or doubt as to whether the circumstances of any particular case warrant the conclusion that a constable's life is actually in danger which cannot have been averted without resorting to the use of a firearm is, however, not likely to arise, and where it is clear that such danger is actually present, and there are no other means at hand of defending his life, a constable need have no fear but that the law will uphold him should a wrong-doer be unavoidably killed. It should always be remembered that a person is not entitled to use any more force than is necessary to repel the danger present.

Preventing the escape of a felon

(iv) When a felony has been committed, the law requires that every constable shall use every lawful means within his power to bring about arrest of the felon at the earliest possible moment.

If the felon is running away to avoid arrest, and there appears to be no other way of preventing his escape, he may be lawfully fired upon, and should his death ensue in consequence, a constable need have no fear but that the law will uphold and protect him. It should be borne in mind, however, that before firing upon a person who is running away to avoid arrest, a constable must be very sure of the following conditions: -

(a) that the person fleeing has actually committed a felony and is running away to escape arrest;

(b) that there are no other means at hand to effect his arrest, and that if he is not fired upon he will escape.

Should any doubt exist in a constable's mind with regard to either of these 2 points he must not use his firearm, for it is better that any number of guilty men should escape than that the life of one innocent person should be sacrified. If a constable holds a proper warrant for the arrest of a person for a felony, or knows such a warrant exists, and that person, knowing the intention to arrest for that felony, runs, and is making good his escape, he may be lawfully fired upon, provided he cannot otherwise be taken, because in this case there is knowledge of the felony having been committed, and the points then to be considered are: -

(a) Is the person running the very individual named or described in the warrant, and is he running away to avoid arrest?

(b) Is there any other possible way of preventing his escape?

If the constable is certain that the man running is the person for whose arrest the warrant was issued, and that, knowing the intention to arrest, the offender is endeavouring to avoid same, and there is no other way of preventing his escape, then not only is a constable justified in using his firearm, but it becomes his duty, when all other means have failed to do so. If there is no warrant in existence for the arrest of the person running away, then a constable must have actual knowledge that a felony has been committed, as well as the conditions above-mentioned before he is justified in using his firearm. It is not sufficient that a constable has reason to suspect that a felony has been committed, as mere suspicion can never justify the taking of human life. For this reason it is not lawful to fire upon a person who is running away with goods, even although he cannot be otherwise arrested, unless it is known to the constable that the person has feloniously taken or received such goods. Even though it afterwards transpired that such person had, in fact, so committed a felony the firing would not be justified if done without knowledge of it.

Under no circumstances is the use of a firearm justified merely to prevent the escape of a person in civil cases, breaches of the peace, or any other misdemeanour short of actual felony. The common law offence of riot is a misdemeanour as are also all common assaults, riotous conduct, and all breaches of the Police Offences Ordinance, wife or child desertion, or disobeying Orders of Court for the support of same, as well as numerous other offences which frequently come under the notice of the Police, and with which every constable should endeavour to so familiarize himself as to be able to at once distinguish them from felonies. Further, the use of a firearm is not justified although the constable knows the person running away has committed a felony, and is running away to evade arrest, unless it appears there are no other means of preventing his escape. He must use his best judgement as to the particular period when it becomes necessary for him to fire, which will depend entirely upon the circumstances in each case. He should not fire when -

(a) he is better mounted than or can outrun the offender;

(b) assistance is likely to be obtained before the offender can effect escape;

(c) there are other reasonable grounds for supposing the arrest can be accomplished in that particular pursuit without resorting to the use of firearms.

A constable is, however, not to let a felon, or a person for whose arrest for a felony a warrant has been issued, escape because he has reason to think or believe he can find him at some future time. His duty is to arrest him there and then and to use all lawful means in order to do so.

(v) The use of firearms by police in crowded thoroughfares merely to prevent the escape of a felon is not generally advisable on account of the inevitable danger to which innocent persons would thereby be subjected. This is quite apart from the legal aspect of the matter, which might be held to be that the presence of numerous persons in the street through which the fugitive must pass would constitute a good reason for supposing he would be intercepted and arrest brought about without the use of firearms.

Prisoners escaping from prisons

(vi) A prisoner who escapes from lawful custody in any prison or police prison, or from the lawful custody of the prison authorities anywhere outside the prison, becomes a felon by virtue of the Prisons Ordinance and the foregoing instructions apply regarding the use of firearms in effecting his re-arrest.

Prisoners escaping from cells at police station

(vii) Cells at police stations are not prisons or police prisons (unless gazetted as such) and an escape from them is a misdemeanour and places the escapee in exactly the same position with respect to his liability to re-arrest as he was prior to his original arrest. If his original offence is a misdemeanour, he remains a misdemeanant, and if it is a felony, he is still a felon. A constable, then, who is endeavouring to arrest such a person could, if certain of the man's identity and that the offence he committed is a felony, use his firearm providing all other means of retaking the offender failed, but if in doubt upon any of these points, or if there is reason to believe the escape can be otherwise prevented, then the constable must not fire upon the fugitive.

Escaping from member's custody

This instruction also applies where a prisoner escapes from the custody of a member at any time between the time of arrest and the time of his being lodged in a prison or police prison.

(viii) A constable will not discharge his firearm except in the execution of his duty, or if ordered to do so by a person in authority over him, and whenever he has occasion to do so, except when so ordered, he must submit a report setting out the circumstances for the information of the Commissioner of Police.

In cases of riot, unlawful assembly, etc., where police are called upon by magistrates to act as an armed body, they will obey the orders of the magistrates with whom the responsibility will rest.

Safety precautions

(ix) Automatic pistols should be carried without a cartridge in the barrel, 7 cartridges in the magazine, the safety catch at "safe" and the pistol uncocked. Frequent examinations should be made of the weapons to ensure that the whole mechanism is in proper working order, particularly the safety catch. Anything defective should be reported immediately.

*(x) (i) Members who may have occasion to possess a firearm prior to boarding commercial aircraft are instructed that such firearm is to be unloaded and must be either placed in normal passenger baggage and stowed in the hold of the aircraft, or, alternatively, be handed in for stowage separately in the diplomatic locker security cupboard where it is available.

(ii) Ammunition is to be packed securely and separately within the baggage.

* Amendment No. S.8/75. Australia Police Gazette page 148, 16 October 1975.

3. No applicable.

1273 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Why is Palmdale Insurance not deregistered as a writer of workers compensation insurance in the Notherm Territory?

ANSWER

The power to revoke the approval of an insurer under the Workmen's Compensation Act rests with the Commissioner of Insurers.

The commissioner can exercise that power only in specified circumstances where the insurer concerned is shown to have acted illegally, or where the insurer itself requests revocation action.

The commissioner has informed me that in the case of Palmdale Insurance Limited he is aware of no illegality. Nor has he been approached by the company seeking revocation.

Palmdale is unable to write new workmen's compensation cover, or renew existing policies as they fall due, because of a current direction made by the Commonwealth Treasurer under the Insurance Act.

1297 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What are the guidelines followed in assessing the credentials of a company wishing to sell workers compensation policies within the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The critieria used by the Northern Territory Commissioner of Insurers in the assessment of applicants for approved insurer status under the Workmen's Compensation Act are set out in section 17J of the act.

Broadly speaking these include the need for a local office, a locally resident manager with delegated powers to conclude business here, and an investment intention. The first 2 matters are questions of fact which are established by satisfactory evidence. The investment intention is subject to some discretion. The present guideline for a satisfactory level of direct investment to be ascertained in the Territory is a third of technical reserves generated by Territory business.

As a prerequisite to the initiation of the above process the applicant must be an authorised insurer under the Commonwealth Insurance Act. Retention of such authorisation involves satisfying the Insurance Commissioner of the Commonwealth on a range of matters including a specific minimum solvency level.

1298 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Will the minister provide the House with more details about the type of aircraft, particularly light aircraft, to be used by the new Northern Territory airline?

2. Is he aware that people of Western Queensland rejected proposals to replace the domestic carriers with a new service using smaller planes likely to be used in the Northern Territory?

3. What steps is the government taking to ensure that air travellers in the Northern Territory do not receive an inferior service in terms of in-flight service and facilities under the new airline?

ANSWER

The basis of our agreement with East West is that any variations in the quality of service are subject to the approval of the minister. The aircraft proposed as a replacement for the DC3's and Herons operated by Connair has not finally been decided but it is likely to be a modern prop-jet aircraft such as the Metro Liner, at least on some of the routes. While the people in Western Queensland were not happy about the Metro Liner as a substitute for the F27, I consider that it would be highly acceptable as a substitute for DC3's and Herons. There is no proposal to downgrade any F27 services in the Northern Territory - rather the proposal is to upgrade them to F28 or equivalent by mid-1981. Some Metro flights could however be used as extra flights to provide better service to some towns.

There is no proposal to downgrade inflight service and facilities under the new airline. Any proposed downgrading would be subject to the approval of the minister. In referring to F27 services in the Northern Territory, I would exclude the use of the former F27 aircraft which operated irregularly between Alice Springs and Ayers Rock. The airline has withdrawn this particular aircraft and services will continue with Herons and DC3 aircraft, and probably Metro Liners, until later this year when more suitable F27 aircraft will be available. Together with other F27 routes the Alice Springs/Ayers Rock route will be upgraded to F28 by mid-1981.

1299 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Will he advise what facilities are provided at Berrimah Gaol for female prisoners in terms of -

   (a) sport and recreation;
   (b) work areas and work undertaken;
   (c) work release programs; and
   (d) further education?

2. Will he further advise in what way these facilities differ, if any, from those available to male prisoners?

ANSWER

Facilities provided at Darwin Prison for female prisoners:

1. (a) Sport and Recreation

   Basketball - volley ball - chess and assorted table games - library - television - radio - feature films - personal cassettes. Tuition in guitar - leather work - sewing/embroidery.

   (b) Work Areas

   Female section. Medical section.

   Work Undertaken

   Cleaning of female section and medical rooms. Prison sewing requirements. Light laundry as all heavy laundry is carried out by main prison laundry complex. Limited flower garden.

   (c) Work Release

   There is no provision for work release for prisoners under the existing ordinance.

   (d) Further Education

   External correspondence courses and tuition by education officers. Subject to availability of instructors, there will be courses in typing, shorthand writing. Also proposed for future programs will be physical education - deportment - hair and beauty care - domestic science.

2. Difference of Facilities available to Male Prisoners

   Male prisoners play darts - touch football. Undertake trade courses in mechanics - carpentry - metal work - vehicle maintenance - boiler house ticket training - catering courses - lawn keeping. Males are also eligible for transfer to Prison Farm, Gunn Point Reserve.

1300 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has he received a letter dated 22 October 1979 from the Alice Springs Todd Traders Association regarding problems associated with unsuitable parking facilities and service lanes?

2. If so, has he considered the questions raised in this letter, and replied to the association?

3. What action does he propose to take to resolve the lack of adequate parking facilities and service lanes in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

1. Yes.

2. As my reply to the Todd Traders Association, dated 21 December 1979, indicated, the question of town development is one for my colleague the Minister for Lands and Housing.

3. I understand that the minister has been in contact with the association over these matters.

1302 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. What is the NT government's policy regarding the concept of Aboriginal communities employing their own adult educators?

2. What is the NT government's policy regarding Aboriginal communities assessing the performance of adult educators within their own communities?

3. What priority will Aboriginal vocational training receive in the 1980-81 NT Education budget?

ANSWER

1. The government provides, through the Department of Education, for the employment of adult educators in Aboriginal communities to meet, wherever possible, the adult education needs of those communities. The adult educator is part of a carefully integrated team which is responsible to the principal of the school, who, in turn, is charged by the government with the overall responsibility for the provision of education services in a particular community. He/she is closely involved with professional advisors and curriculum officers based in the TAFE branch of the department.

   Rather than have Aboriginal communities employing their own adult educators, it is a policy of my department to provide for a screening of adult educators by the council or other similar responsible body in the community before they take up their appointment. This process has the advantage of involving the community in the selection, whilst ensuring that the adult educator is part of the team and that he/she has full access to departmental resources.

2. The nature of an adult educator's role requires him/her to work closely with the community in general, and the council in particular. It is the policy of the Department of Education that new appointees meet with the council before taking up an appointment in an Aboriginal community. The government accepts the right of the council to have a significant influence over the adult education programs to be offered in an Aboriginal community, and that the adult educator has a responsibility together with the school principal to respond to the education needs identified in, or expressed by, the community as a whole.

3. It is neither possible nor appropriate at this point in time to speculate about the priority to be given to any particular education program in the 1980-81 budget. Nevertheless, in order to improve the Aboriginal vocational training program the department has planned for:

- the recruitment of 6 additional technical teachers of whom 4 will be used in Aboriginal communities to service their trade training needs; and

- the increased use of visiting lecturers and local tradesmen on a part-time basis to conduct specialist courses in Aboriginal communities.

In addition to on-site training, the TAFE branch of the department will encourage Aboriginal students to attend vocational courses at the Darwin Community College, Community College of Central Australia and at the Katherine Rural College.

1326 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What was the amount of money received from the sale of 7 drums of tin concentrate sent about August 1979 from Mt Wells Battery to ATS Newcastle, and how much was credited to the Department of Mines and Energy?

ANSWER

The amount of money received from the sale of 7 drums of tin concentrate from the Associated Tin Smelters was $31,189.55. All this money was credited to the Department of Mines and Energy and deposited into NT revenue.

1351 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What research is being done into cattle reproduction in the NT?

2. What is the staffing and future plans for using the Berrimah Nutrition Laboratory?

3. How many cattle were turned-off from Willeroo last year?

ANSWER

1. The major current research project is to evaluate the effects of commercial weaning practices on cattle reproduction.

2. Pending the appointment of a permanent nutrition officer, the laboratory facilities are being used by field staff involved in several research projects.

3. I refer the honourable member to his recent discussion with Mr McKerrow of my office.

1352 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

On what date was the Cabinet decision made to open the cafeteria in the Chan Building?

ANSWER

Cabinet on 9 June 1978 endorsed the renovation and furnishing of the ground floor of the Chan Building (Block 8) to provide inter alia for a public cafeteria.

1378 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Following the government's requests to the Prime Minister and the Minister for National Development has the Territory received increased allocations of avgas and diesel fuel for this year?

If so, by how much have the allocations been increased?

ANSWER

The availability of avgas and diesel fuel to users in the Northern Territory has been discussed with the National Petroleum Advisory Committee but it has not been necessary to increase specific allocations because the oil companies have been able to arrange for adequate supplies of these fuels to be available.

Aviation gasoline and diesoline are supplied without restriction.

The National Petroleum Advisory Committee is keeping the situation under review and should any shortage occur or be anticipated, appropriate action will be taken.

1379 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did he assure the owners of the Vic Snack bar that the government cafeteria in the Chan Building would not go ahead?

ANSWER

No.

1381 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Has the Department of Lands and Housing approved the lease application of the Mbutjara Association, South Terrace, Alice Springs, made in March last year and, if not, why not?

2. If so, can he ensure that the Mbutjara Association and the Tangatjira Council of Alice Springs are advised immediately of the decision?

ANSWER

1. The minister approves issue of the lease, not the department.

2. Regarding the application by the Mbutjara Association for land on South Terrace, Alice Springs, the Commonwealth has been approached to ascertain if they are prepared to fund the purchase of this land. A formal response from the Commonwealth is expected in the near future.

1382 Mr PERKINS to TREASURER

1. Was $105,000 allocated for cycling facilities in Alice Springs in the 1979-80 Territory budget?

2. Is he aware that a senior planning officer, last month, informed the Alice Springs Cycle Track Research Committee in writing, that a cash flow from this amount cannot be made until 30 June 1980?

3. If so, why is it that funds allocated in the 1979-80 budget cannot be drawn upon until the following financial year?

ANSWER

1. The project, at an estimated cost of $105,000, formed a "Proposed New Work" in the Capital Works Program 1979-80. Tenders were to be called in May 1980 and, because of this late tender target date, no cash was allocated against the project in the 1979-80 budget.

2. Yes. The senior planning officer was in fact an officer of the Department of Lands and Housing who has been in liaison with the committee for some time.

3. As set down in 1. above, funds were not allocated in the 1979-80 budget against the project.

1411 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. When did the minister last consult the council of the Community College of Central Australia in regard to the use of the Sportarama Building in Priest Street as an educational facility?

2. Is the minister aware that the Community College of Central Australia's projection for use of the Priest Street complex comprises 18 pre-employment apprenticeship and training programs?

3. Considering that the 1980 term in a number of courses at the college has already begun, when will the minister resume negotiations with the college council on the use of the Priest Street complex as an educational facility?

ANSWER

1. Officers of the Education Department have been in constant contact with the Community College of Central Australia during the period of negotiations for the acquisition of the Sportarama Building in Priest Street. The actual transfer of the building to the department is expected to be finalised next month (April).

   During the week, 25-29 February 1980, a senior officer of the department, together with an architect from the Department of Transport and Works, visited Alice Springs to discuss with college officers their particular requirements as regards modification to the building to suit their purposes.

2. The building was acquired for the college to enable it to conduct a range of courses including trade and apprenticeship training, pre-apprenticeship courses, Aboriginal vocational training, unemployed youth programs and pre-employment courses for Yirrara College students.

3. The department aims to complete the necessary modification and renovation work to the building in time for the start of the third term, 1980.

1412 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What residential alcohol rehabilitation facilities and programs are currently available in the NT?

2. With the exception of hospitals, what detoxification facilities are currently available in the NT?

3. With the exception of hospitals, what overnight shelters or half-way houses are currently available in the NT for persons with alcohol problems?

4. What alcohol education programs are currently available in the NT?

5. Is the government currently implementing alcohol education programs in Territory high schools?

6. What funds have been allocated this financial year by the government for alcohol rehabilitation programs throughout the Territory?

7. Have funds been allocated this financial year for alcohol education programs and, if so, how much?

ANSWER

1. Residential alcohol rehabilitation facilities and programs are currently available in Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine.

   In Darwin, the Foundation of Rehabilitation with Aboriginal Alcohol Related Difficulties (FORWAARD) operates a residential hostel which admits both Aborigines and non-Aborigines.

   The Salvation Army also operates a residential facility known as the "Sunrise Centre".

   In Alice Springs, the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress operates an alcohol rehabilitation farm.

   The Kalano Community Association in Katherine operates Kalano Farm which is designed for Aborigines.

2. Apart from hospitals, there are no detoxification facilities available.

3. Overnight shelters are available in Darwin and Katherine. In Darwin, the Salvation Army and the St Vincent de Paul Society provide shelters and in Katherine the Regional Council operates the Giles Street shelter.

   There are no half-way houses, as such, in the Northern Territory.

4. Apart from the Department of Health which provides health education programs including alcohol education, for a wide range of community groups throughout the Northern Territory, private organisations provide alcohol education programs in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs.

   Darwin and District Alcohol and Drug Dependence Foundation at "Amity House", Darwin, conducts drink driver courses which are educational in nature.

   The Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Alice Springs and the Kalano Association, Katherine, offer education programs as part of their service.

5. The Health Education Branch of the Department of Health acts as a resource in terms of both personnel and material, to health education programs in schools, particularly where these programs involve alcohol.

6. The Darwin Hospital in-patient treatment program includes education.

   The Department of Health has provided $14,000 to the Salvation Army Service Centre through the Grants-in-Aid Scheme.

7. The Department of Health through its Grants-in-Aid Scheme has provided $64,000 to the Darwin and District Alcohol and Drug Dependence Foundation.

1413 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has the minister received any complaints about the running of the Alice Springs Women's Centre, apart from those allegations relayed by the Member for Stuart?

2. Has the minister visited the Alice Springs Women's Centre recently and consulted with the Women's Centre Collective regarding these complaints?

3. Will the minister confirm or deny the report in the Centralian Advocate of 7 February 1980 concerning allegations about the Alice Springs Women's Centre?

ANSWER

1. Yes.

2. Yes.

3. No.

1415 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware that children attending schools in some outback areas of Central Australia often travel to school in open trucks and, if so, will he undertake to have this matter investigated with a view to providing more suitable means of transport for school children?

ANSWER

The Department of Education is unaware of any situation where children are transported officially to school in open trucks.

By far the majority of outback children attending local schools live within 1.6 km (1 mile) radius of the school and as such are not entitled to government funded transport to and from school.

Where children reside further than 1.6 km from their local school, as is the case at Mt Ebenezer and Utopia, the department provides bus transport.

1416 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Will he advise which Territory organisations were invited to attend the seminar on alcohol abuse held in Darwin on 15 and 16 February 1980?

2. Which Territory organisations actually attended this seminar?

3. Which members of the Legislative Assembly were invited to attend this seminar and actually attended?

4. If members of the Legislative Assembly were not invited to attend, why not?

5. What were the aims and purpose of this seminar?

6. Will he provide copies to members of the report and recommendations arising from this seminar?

7. Does the government propose to establish a NT Alcohol Authority and, if so, what would be the aims and functions of such an authority?

ANSWER

1. Invitations to attend the seminar were sent to the following Territory organisations:

Government Organisations

Department of Aboriginal Affairs
Department of Education
Department of Community Development
Department of Law
Northern Territory Police
Liquor Commission
Department of Social Security
Department of the Chief Minister
Department of Health
Office of the Public Service Commissioner
Municipality of Katherine
Municipality of Alice Springs
Municipality of Tennant Creek
Corporation of the City of Darwin
Nhulunbuy Town Board

Private Organisations

Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
NT Council of Social Service
NT Trades and Labour Council
Darwin Chamber of Commerce
Foundation of Rehabilitation with Aboriginal Alcohol Related Difficulties
Darwin and District Alcohol and Drug Dependence Foundation
The Salvation Army, Darwin
Kalano Association, Katherine
The Ministers' Fraternal, Darwin
St Vincent de Paul Society
The National Aboriginal Conference
Resource and Settlement Centre, Darwin

A general invitation to attend was also issued to everyone interested by way of printed advertisements and radio announcements.

2. The following is a list of those organisations that actually attended the conference.

Government Organisations

Department of Health
Department of Education
Department of Community Development
Department of Law
Department of the Chief Minister
Northern Territory Police
Liquor Commission
Corporation of the City of Darwin
Municipality of Tennant Creek

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Municipality of Katherine
Nhulunbuy Town Board

Private Organisations

NT Trade and Labour Council
Darwin and District Alcohol and Drug Dependence Foundation
Banyan House
St Vincent de Paul, Darwin
Salvation Army, Darwin
Uniting Church, Darwin
Uniting Church, Alice Springs
Foundation of Rehabilitation with Aboriginal Alcohol Related Difficulties
Kalano Association, Katherine
Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
NT Council of Social Service, Darwin

3. The following members of the Legislative Assembly were invited to attend.

   The Honourable Ian Tuxworth, Minister for Health
   The Honourable Nick Dondas, Minister for Community Development
   Mrs P.F. O'Neil, MLA, Member for Fannie Bay

   Mr Dondas was unable to attend.

4. A general invitation to interested persons was issued (see above). Specific invitations were issued to those members with a special interest.

5. The aim of the conference was to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas on the question of alcohol use and abuse in the Northern Territory and to draw up guidelines for the development of future policies.

6. Yes, copies of the report and recommendations arising from the conference will be provided to members.

7. The government has agreed to the establishment of an Alcohol Authority in the Northern Territory; this is planned to occur in stages; the initial stage being a co-ordinating cell within the Northern Territory Department of Health. A Steering Committee has been established to guide its formation. The aims and functions of this authority have yet to be developed; broadly speaking, however, the overall aim of the authority will be to achieve responsible attitudes to alcohol throughout the Northern Territory and the lessening of the alcohol problem.

1417 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many people have sought and have been provided with assistance under the Darwin Hospital Alcohol Rehabilitation Program since its inception?

2. How many people, if any, have been denied treatment under the 2 week program at the Darwin Hospital due to limited resources and personnel?

ANSWER

1. 95.

2. There was one occasion when formal treatment program was not available and this was during the Christmas period of 1979 up to end of January 1980. However, NO patient was refused detoxification and general psychiatric care.

1418 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

How many days travel allowance has been paid to the Minister for Education while in Darwin during the financial year 1977-8?

ANSWER

122 nights.

1420 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What is the strength of the police force in Katherine?

2. What was it this time last year?

3. How many arrests have been made since 1 July 1979 last year?

4. How many arrests had been made for the period 1 July 1978 to 28 February 1979?

ANSWER

1. The strength of the police force in Katherine is a total of 29 men made up of:

   1 inspector - 1 sergeant 1/C - 6 sergeant 3/C - 21 constables.

   The inspector is a divisional officer and relief staff is included in the total.

2. As in 1. above.

3. Arrests made since 1 July 1979:

Protective custody	1,417
Other	542
Total	1,959

4. Arrests for the period 1 July 1978 to 28 February 1979:

Protective custody	1,142
Other	454
Total	1,596

1422 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What steps are being taken to provide fertilizer for agriculture and horticulture at rates economic to producers?

ANSWER

The government has approved a fertilizer freight subsidy at the rate of $40 per tonne for approved fertilizer purchased and paid for during the 1979-80 financial year. The purpose of the subsidy is to assist primary producers to off-set the high freight costs on imported chemical fertilizers used by them in the production of pastures, crops, fruit and vegetables. As at the end of February, subsidy payments have been made for a total of 249.2 tonnes of approved fertilizer.

1423 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Has Meneling meatworks taken up the $500,000 loan from the Territory Development Corporation? If not, why not?

2. If the meatworks project has not gone ahead, does this show that the TDC does not carry out sufficient checking of applicants before approving a loan?

3. Has the $500,000 been tied up doing nothing because Meneling has not been able to get going?

ANSWER

1. No. The loan has lapsed.

2. No. The approval for this particular loan was conditional upon the company providing a certain level of equity and organising the funding for the balance of the project. In common with most development projects the Meneling meatworks proposal depended upon a package of funding. In all cases before offering financial assistance the corporation satisfies itself as to the viability of the project including the ability to repay all loans and takes adequate security before making financial assistance available.

3. No. After financial assistance has been approved by the corporation there is always a delay in releasing funds. These delays reflect the need to take security before any funds are released and vary from case to case. In addition a proportion of loans approved lapse due to changes in applicants' intentions and situations.

1424 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What loans have been made and to whom by the Territory Development Corporation since it came into existence?

ANSWER

It is the belief of the present government that information provided to the Northern Territory Development Corporation and any resultant financial or other assistance provided is confidential. It is considered that the disclosure of such information may be used to advantage by competitors or other interested parties. Other financial institutions do not disclose details of their loan dealings and it is not the intention of this government to have the Northern Territory Development Corporation do so.

1428 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Will the Northern Territory government reconsider Mr Gerry Luck's application for an air charter licence?

2. If not, why not?

3. Why did the Northern Territory government block his last application?

ANSWER

1. The government has already considered the application and recommended that the Commonwealth Department of Transport issue a charter and aerial work licence.

2. Not applicable.

3. Since late 1979 the government has had a specific policy of not supporting the issue of additional charter licences until such time as the takeover of Connair and its effects throughout all tiers of the aviation industry could be evaluated. In addition the government has been involved in discussions with industry with the aim of further developing its policies in regard to commercial aviation licensing in preparation for the formal transfer of powers. Mr Luck's application, along with a number of others, was delayed for these reasons.

1431 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. When did the NT government acquire the hostels in the NT formerly owned by Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services?

2. What was the purchase price of each of the hostels?

3. When will the 12 months period, during which the Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services continues to administer the hostels, expire?

4. What arrangements have been made to ensure continued employment for the staff of Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services in the NT hostels?

ANSWER

1. Pursuant to the NT Self-Government Act the hostels owned by the Commonwealth in the NT were legally transferred to the NT on 1 July 1978. The NT government agreed to retain ownership in April 1979.

2. The transfer is at nil cost.

3. The period referred to has not yet commenced.

4. The arrangements for the continued employment of CACS staff after the termination of the 12 months interim agreement between the NT government and CACS have not been finalised.

1432 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Was a bookseller, recently arrived from Western Australia, invited to the opening of the Casuarina library?

2. Is this bookseller an acquaintance of the Director of Library Services?

3. Were any local booksellers invited to the opening of the Casuarina library?

ANSWER

1. An interstate bookseller visiting Darwin for the purpose of discussing terms of trade arrived on 11 February, the day of the official opening of the Casuarina library. The Director of the Northern Territory Library Services was involved with the preparation for the official opening. The interstate bookseller only had limited time in Darwin. The director, therefore, invited him to visit the Casuarina library so that he could ascertain the type of material being selected for the Northern Territory Library Service and so that preliminary discussions could take place about the supply of library materials immediately after the official opening.

2. The bookseller is known to the Director of the Northern Territory Library Service as are most library suppliers in Australia and overseas. Other interstate and overseas library suppliers have visited and will be visiting Darwin to discuss the possibility of supplying material.

3. No local booksellers were invited to the opening of the Casuarina library. The director extends an invitation to any local bookseller to visit the Casuarina library and to have discussions about the supply of books.

1436 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why is it no longer the practice of the Fire Brigade to necessarily attend at road accidents?

ANSWER

To the best of my knowledge it has never been government policy to have the Fire Brigade automatically attend a traffic accident. The responsibility for attending and controlling accident sites and rescue operation rests with the Northern Territory Police Force.

Should a fire occur or there is a possibility that one may occur, the police officers at the site will summon Fire Brigade assistance. This assistance is rendered immediately upon request.

The police are also aware that the Fire Brigade has a rescue capacity which is available upon request.

1437 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

What plans has the Health Department for replacing the children's ward at the Katherine Hospital?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Department of Health has included the provision of a new ward at the Katherine Hospital to replace the existing children's ward in its forward proposals for 1982-83.

On this basis, and assuming the project is committed to construction early 1983, completion of the building could be expected by about May 1984.

1439 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In view of the large amounts of lime required by uranium miners in the Territory, has the government investigated the extent of Territory deposits of limestone with a view to encouraging local production and obviating the need to import the material?

ANSWER

The Department of Mines and Energy is keeping a close watch on the search for lime in the Northern Territory. Quite extensive searches have been carried out in past years for suitable lime deposits. Up to the present time no large deposits of lime have been found that would be suitable in the treatment of uranium ores.

For some time now, companies have been searching for a source of lime in the Top End in order to manufacture cement. Limestone are known in large quantities but they are too siliceous or contain too much magnesia to be suitable. Shell and coral debris has been investigated offshore but once again there are not known sources of suitable material and large enough size.

Shell ridges in the Chambers Bay area may contain fair quantities of possibly suitable lime but their removal would be a definite environmental hazard. This is because the ridges are the only barrier between the sea and large areas of low lying land.

1440 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. How will the proceeds from treating the Mt Wells battery dump be distributed?

2. Has any part of the dump been treated in recent times? If so, what was the value of the recovery and to whom was it distributed?

3. How long is it expected before all the present dump will be processed?

ANSWER

1. There are 3 types of battery sand dumps at Mt Wells:

   (a) Dump of old tailings belonging to various prospectors.

   (b) Dump of old tailings belonging to Mr Reid and party.

   (c) Dump of old tailings belonging to the Northern Territory government.

   The proceeds of dump type (a) will be distributed to prospectors on a pro-rata basis as per tonnage and grade of their crushings at the time of treatment.

   The proceeds of dump type (b) are paid to Reid and party.

   The proceeds of dump type (c) are paid in to revenue.

2. About 429 tonnes were treated from dump type (b) and proceeds of $5,200 were paid to Reid and party.

   About 1,440 tonnes were treated from dump type (c) and the proceeds of $31,190 were paid into the Northern Territory revenue.

3. Dump material is normally treated when there is no ore from prospectors available or during the wet season. It is estimated, depending on the work load and number of shifts operated per day, that it will take several years to complete the retreatment of all dumps.

1444 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware of allegations that fish have been netted in the Red Lily Lagoon on Elsey Station and elsewhere on the Roper River and, if so, will he increase the number of inspectors to police the area?

ANSWER

I am aware of the illegal netting activities in the Roper River area.

The government has taken steps to provide a fisheries inspector with an assistant, who will be stationed at Roper Bar, and whose area will be the Roper River.

1446 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Have any government ministers or members of their families applied to the Territory Development Corporation for a loan and, if so, what are the details of the applications, the purpose of the loan and the result of each application?

ANSWER

No government minister or member of their close families have applied to the Northern Territory Development Corporation for a loan. The corporation does not investigate the extended family relationships of an applicant except where such a relative has financial interest in the application.

1448 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Which organisations and individuals applied for International Year of the Child grants from your department?

2. Which of these organisations and individuals were successful, and how much did each one receive?

ANSWER

1. The following organisations applied for International Year of the Child grants from the Department of Community Development:

    1. Brown's Mart
    2. Uniting Church of Northern Australia - Aboriginal Women's Resource Centre
    3. NT Arts Council
    4. Corporation of the City of Darwin
    5. Darwin Family Centres
    6. Casuarina Lyons Club
    7. St Pauls School, Nightcliff
    8. Darwin Apex Club
    9. Northern Territory Hockey Association
    10. The Australian Association of Dance
    11. The Banks' Hockey Club
    12. The Kim Saunders Ballet School

13. Darwin Special Schools
14. The NT Secondary Schools Sports Association
15. The Christian Parents and Friends Association
16. The Nightcliff Youth Band
17. The School Library Association of the NT
18. Darwin Toy Library Incorporated
19. The Fellowship of Australian Writers
20. The Aboriginal Educational Tour to the NT
21. The NT Pre-Schools Association
22. The Alice Springs High School
23. The Sadadeen High School Alice Springs
24, The Katherine Regional Council
25. The Nhulunbuy Area School Ladies Auxiliary
26. The Nhulunbuy Play Group Association
27. The Tennant Creek Brownies
28. The NT Council of Social Services
29. The Alice Springs IYC Steering Committee
30. The Darwin IYC Steering Committee
31. The Darwin City to Surf Committee
32. The Darwin Camera Club
33. The Darwin Family Planning Association
34. The Darwin Youth Refuge
35. The Salvation Army (NT Division)
36. The Alice Springs Youth Centre
37. The Tennant Creek Theatre Society
38. The Tiwi Parents Association
39. The Department of Education Music Faculty
40. The Uniting Church Women's Fellowship
41. The Physiotherapy Association of the NT
42. The Christmas in Darwin Association
43. The Darwin Ballroom Dancing Association
44. The NT Play Group Association
45. Tennant Creek Scouts and Guides
46. The Alice Springs Toy Library Committee
47. The NT Environmental Council
48. The NT Pre-School Teachers Association
49. The Student Representatives Council - Alyangula Area School
50. The Alice Springs Toy Exchange
51. The Franciscan Sisters Tennant Creek
52. Katherine Steering Committee
53. The Migrant Resource and Settlement Centre.

2. The following rants were provided through International Year of the Child:

ORGANISATION	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Corporation of the City of Darwin	Fun in the Parks	1,300.00
Casuarina Lyons Club	Adventure play grounds	5,000.00
Sadadeen High School	Film screenings	1,000.00
Nhulunbuy Area School Ladies Auxiliary	Play ground equipment	1,500.00
Nhulunbuy Play Group Association	Equipment	200.00
Darwin IYC Steering Committee	The Knee High Show	3,000.00
Darwin IYC Steering Committee	Fourth World Photographic Exhibition	2,000.00
Darwin IYC Steering Committee	Dr Clare Ibister tour	500.00
Darwin Family Planning Association	Young Peoples Action Centre	1,000.00
	Play equipment	2,674.00

The Migrant Resource and Settlement Centre	Multi lingual childrens library	3,005.50
Darwin and District Toy Library	Equipment	708.85
Alice Springs Toy Library Committee	Establishment costs	2,000.00
Student Representatives Council - Alyangula Area School	Equipment for drop-in centre	1,000.00
Tiwi Parents Association	Mural painting	200.00
Department of Education Music Faculty	Transport costs	288.00
The Physiotherapy Association of the NT	Childbirth seminar	350.00
The Christmas in Darwin Association	Children's choir	200.00
The Alice Springs Toy Exchange	Establishment costs	500.00
The Franciscan Sisters Tennant Creek	Disadvantaged children taken to Alice Springs	600.00
The Aboriginal Education Tour to NT	T-shirts	265.00
Tennant Creek Brownies	Camp Costs	230.00
NT Council of Social Services	Visit by Dr D. Morris	200.00
Brown's Mart	Boungainvillea Festival IYC launching	567.32
	Kids convoy	5,000.00
Alice Springs IYC Steering Committee	Establishment costs	500.00
Darwin Camera Club	Photographic competition	85.48
YWCA on behalf of Darwin Youth Refuge	Producing film on children and the law	5,425.00
The Uniting Church of NA Aboriginal Women's Resource Centre	Workshop	6,000.00
Darwin Family Centres	Family Fun Bus	8,165.00

1451 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did the minister seek prior assurances from the federal Minister for Immigration that the family reunion scheme would proceed when the Chief Minister made the scheme public in March this year?

ANSWER

There are many families in the Northern Territory who have relatives overseas who currently are not able to migrate to Australia under the existing selection criteria. In February 1980, representations were made to Commonwealth government on behalf of these families on the subject of the establishment of a family union program with reference to the Northern Territory to be called the Northern Territory Personal Nominations Scheme. The proposed scheme, which is still subject to final approval by both the honourable Ian Macphee and myself, will allow some families who fulfil certain criteria to nominate close relatives from overseas for reunion with their families in the Territory. It is envisaged that sponsoring families in the Northern Territory who wish to apply under this scheme will have to give certain guarantees of employment and housing etc for the new arrivals and that there will be a requirement to reside in the Northern Territory for a specified time. The scheme is aimed at promoting the needs and the development of the Northern Territory population and meeting the needs of some migrants and refugee families already living in the Territory. Critical to its success will be full cooperation between the Territory and the Commonwealth officials in the administration of the scheme and, perhaps even more importantly, the enthusiastic participation and support of the community.

I commenced negotiations on this scheme with the former Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Michael Mackellar, as late as August last year and the scheme was going along really well. At the time the Chief Minister made the announcement to the Portuguese Chinese community that we had been negotiating with the Commonwealth, we did have a draft agreement which spelt out the various criteria that would apply in the reunion program. It was to be a pilot program. When the Chief Minister made the announcement, Dr Moss Cass, the federal opposition spokesman on immigration and ethnic affairs, came out and slammed the scheme. It is interesting to note that, at the recent Immigration and Ethnic Affairs Conference that was held in Darwin last Friday, the states opposing the scheme were New South Wales, a Labor state and Tasmania, another Labor state. Queensland also was not able to give firm support to the proposals because the minister said that he would have to take that particular proposal back to his Cabinet. The states of Western Australia, Victoria and South Australia all supported the scheme. As I understand it, the federal minister is going to go back to his parliamentary colleagues with a Cabinet submission in the next couple of weeks and we are hopeful that that particular scheme will become a reality in the Northern Territory.

1452 Mr VALE to TREASURER

Can he restructure the domestic electricity tariffs to provide cheaper electricity?

ANSWER

The simple answer to the question is yes but the pertinent points are how it is done and where the money comes from. Honourable members are no doubt aware of the opposition's recent announcements that, in the unlikely event that they become the government in the Northern Territory, one of their first actions would be to reduce domestic electricity tariffs. One can only assume that, in taking such action, the opposition would either have to increase commercial tariffs or make up the shortfall in some other way. The ways open to the Northern Territory government, with its specific powers, are limited but one of those would certainly be by using revenue gained from Territorians; that is, perhaps they are proposing an increase in taxation.

Mr Speaker, we are all aware of the arrangements with the federal government whereby they are prepared to subsidise the difference between the costs of generating electricity in the Territory and a sum equivalent to the North Queensland tariffs. At the moment, it is running at about $40m and one can be fairly sure that the Commonwealth is not interested in increasing that subsidy by changing the formula to provide Territorians with the benefit of a reduction beyond north Queensland tariff rates without some offsetting financial arrangement.

We can only assume that, to reduce domestic tariffs, the opposition proposes to increase commercial tariffs and this would certainly make a mockery of their professed sympathy for the plight of small businesses because small businesses are paying substantially above the domestic tariff but that is the system which exists in north Queensland and we are following that because it is part of the agreement with the Commonwealth. The other way is to increase taxation in the Territory and provide a Territory government subsidy to the Northern Territory Electricity Commission in order to make up the shortfall in revenue provided by the subsidy arrangements.

In making such simple bald statements like 'we will bring down your power bill', which really do not mean a great deal, the opposition should come clean and tell Territorians exactly how it proposes to do it because the facts of life are that the cost is the cost. We have a financial arrangement which is working; it proposes to change it. There has to be disadvantages to the Territory in some other area and it should let us know.

To answer the honourable member's question, certainly the power exists for a Northern Territory government to structure electricity tariffs in just about any way it likes but any shortfall which results from such restructuring has to be made up by the Northern Territory government in one way or another.

1453 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In line with undertakings already given privately, could he indicate to the House when prisoner Woodham, presently at Darwin Prison Berrimah, will be transferred to a New South Wales prison?

ANSWER

I am surprised by the question from the honourable member for Nightcliff.

I have never given any undertaking and I only just briefly discussed the Woodham's case with her at a recent function. The context of my conversation with her was that I had not seen any documents from the department regarding the transfer. I had only seen what appeared in the Star last week in relation to him going on a hunger strike and that he had won his battle. I went on to say, and it is not rubbish at all, that it is very likely that, when the paperwork did come to me for consideration of the transfer to New South Wales, I would not approve it.

1454 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Could he tell me please if money is available for the proposed Elizabeth River causeway at the Elizabeth River subdivision?

ANSWER

Yes, the money is available from the Northern Territory government to construct this causeway which has been the cause of considerable concern to certain persons in the honourable member for Tiwi's electorate. I have taken a personal interest in this matter for some time. It has been a very complex matter of sorting out the rights and responsibilities of the various parties involved. I have undertaken that money would be provided by the government to complete the action required so that these persons can obtain a reasonable access to their properties.

1455 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Despite the fact that the Motor Vehicles Dealer Act was passed by this Assembly nearly 12 months ago, it has still not come into operation. I understand this is because the regulations have still not been completed. Will he undertake to have this act brought into operation without further delay in the interests of both consumers and also motor vehicle dealers in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

At the moment, the regulations are with the motor vehicle dealers for comment. As soon as that comment has been received, we will have the regulations presented to the House.

1456 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Rumours are going around that, with the opening of the Casuarina Hospital, hospital costs to the public will increase. Could the minister inform me if this will be the case?

ANSWER

I have no idea where the rumour would have originated nor the basis on which the rumour would be peddled. If the honourable member can find any reasonable basis for such a rumour, I would be happy to get the department to investigate it. I have no knowledge personally of any proposal for hospital charges to increase because we are shifting from the Darwin Hospital to the Casuarina Hospital.

1457 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has he conveyed to the Commonwealth Minister for Education the recommendation of his department that Katherine and Tennant Creek be declared disadvantaged country areas in respect of Schools Commission grants?

ANSWER

The honourable member must be referring to the country areas disadvantaged school scheme of Schools Commission. I have put to the Commonwealth that the entire of the Northern Territory be declared disadvantaged for the purposes of that scheme with the exception of Darwin and Alice Springs. I think this is justified.

1458 Mr BALLANTYNE to CHIEF MINISTER

I believe the Chief Minister is aware of the recent sightings of crocodiles around Gove. Some 10 sightings were reported over the last weekend. What action has been taken or what immediate action will be taken by the wildlife people to help remove these crocodiles or perhaps place notices to give warning to the people in the town? They are becoming very disturbed.

ANSWER

I am not quite certain from what the honourable member said - whether the crocodiles or the people in the town are becoming disturbed. I know that the problem of crocodiles is a serious one at Nhulunbuy and the Conservation Commission with which the honourable member for Nhulunbuy has been in touch is equally concerned that people in the Northern Territory, particularly those at Nhulunbuy, should not suffer as a result of the depredations of these animals. I would be very happy to take on board the suggestion made by the honourable member just now that signs warning the public of the existence and proximity of crocodiles could be placed at popular spots around Nhulunbuy. I understand that a survey of the crocodile population in the area has been carried out by the Conservation Commission. I don't think that I have seen the results as yet but, obviously, if crocodiles are being regularly sighted at popular spots in the area, steps will have to be taken by the Conservation Commission to attempt to relocate some of these crocodiles further away from human habitation. I am quite sure that none of us would want to see a repetition of the attack which resulted in the death of a young man who was spear-fishing near Nhulunbuy last year. I do take this matter very seriously and I will ask the Conservation Commission to erect signs in consultation with either the Northern Land Council or the Community Council at Yirrkala on whose land they will have to be erected. We will also look at relocating crocodiles where it is deemed necessary.

1459 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has he made representations to the federal Minister for Transport concerning the carriage of domestic passengers on Qantas international flights between Darwin and southern ports and, if so, what was the outcome of his representations?

ANSWER

I have not made a direct representation for the carriage of Darwin domestic passengers on Qantas to any minister. I am well aware of the policy and I am well aware of the changes that are being recommended to government in respect of the carriage of domestic passengers on international aircraft and vice versa.

1460 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the Elizabeth River causeway at the Elizabeth River subdivision be built?

ANSWER

My understanding is that the money is available and that the work will be carried out during this calendar year.

1461 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Could he advise why prisoner's wages in the Northern Territory have been reduced from the magnificent sum of 35c a day to 30c a day?

ANSWER

I would ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

1462 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will hospital services be maintained at the Darwin Hospital to cater for age pensioners' needs?

ANSWER

I have advised the House previously that there will be some basic health facilities and outpatient facilities maintained at the Darwin Hospital. I could not tell the honourable member to what degree they would satisfy the needs of pensioners but I can assure him that there will be a health unit maintained at the Darwin Hospital after the transfer is completed to Casuarina. If necessary, we can look at how we might provide age pensioners with facilities if a particular need is identified.

1463 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Could he explain why mileage allowances paid to parents who transport their own children to school from where they live in isolated areas has been cut by 50%?

ANSWER

It does seem that there must be an election in the wind because the honourable member is at last taking an interest in education. I am unaware of the substance of the honourable member's question and will seek the information and advise him later.

1464 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to the expected influx of migrants into the Northern Territory under the migrant family reunion scheme and the accommodation that will be necessary for these people. Will people at present on the Housing Commission waiting list for flats and houses be penalised by having to wait longer?

ANSWER

Information that I have at this stage would indicate that is not the case. All persons who put their names down on the Housing Commission list for accommodation are assessed in the same way and they take their turn. The out-of-turn allocation system is based on needs criteria and these people are assessed on a uniform set of procedures and out-of-turn allocation is granted in certain circumstances. At this stage, we are not looking at providing out-of-turn accommodation specifically for people on the grounds merely that they are migrants.

1465 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

With the year of the handicapped persons coming up and with the increasing parking restrictions on motor vehicles, can he please tell me if consideration has been given to issuing stickers for those vehicles, private or otherwise, required to carry handicapped persons?

ANSWER

The government has not given consideration to stickers but certainly we are very concerned to play our part in the year of the handicapped persons which is next year and, in this respect, we are looking at ways of assisting handicapped persons. There is a federal policy being launched through the Department of Industry and Commerce in respect of the facilities in hotels and other places where disadvantaged persons might care to stay. I have had a representation from people who are concerned about the lack of a ramp leading onto the railway platform. We have made representations to the Commonwealth railways about that and we are treating the matter very seriously.

1466 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has his attention been drawn to a deficiency in the Electrical Workers and Contractors Act which results in the fact that persons repairing electrical appliances are not required to be licensed? Will he examine this deficiency and bring it to the attention of the minister responsible, the Minister for Mines and Energy, with a view to having this deficiency rectified?

ANSWER

If there is such a deficiency, I will bring it to the attention of the Minister for Mines and Energy.

1467 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the fact that there will be an election some time before

August, could he advise me of the current position with staff shortages at the Alice Springs High School?

ANSWER

Considering it is an election year and that the Alice Springs High School happens to be slap bang in the middle of my electorate, I would have liked to have seen this problem solved long ago. The realities are that, with the very best endeavours of the Commonwealth Teaching Service to fill the few remaining vacancies, it has proved to be extremely difficult. To give one quick example, a particular teacher was desired by the school for his particular field. That teacher was hired and on about the date that he was to commence duty, he advised that he no longer wished to come to the Northern Territory. At that time, that teacher was overseas. The complexity of problems like that has resulted in a small deficiency in the number of teaching staff at the Alice Springs High School.

I would like to again express my appreciation to the staff for the extra efforts they have put into overcoming the difficulties of several teachers missing over a period of time. We are hoping that the matter can be resolved immediately but, as all honourable members would be aware, once a teacher who has been appointed to a job says that he is no longer willing to come, we have to start recruiting all over again. It is one of the traps of having a teaching service administered from some 3,000-odd kilometres away. It is one of the reasons why this government has been particularly anxious to establish its own teaching service. Indeed, it has done everything within its powers to achieve that as soon as possible.

1468 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has patronage of special bus services to and from sporting events increased in Darwin since the St Patrick's Day meeting? If so, will these services be continued?

ANSWER

I have not got the figures in front of me in respect of the special-event patronage of bus services. We have considered these events as individual requests for assistance by sporting communities and I think our attitude would be to continue to consider those requests individually. Certainly, the general patronage - I have some figures which I might be able to bring forward later on - has been quite good and we are pleased with the results.

1469 Mr HARRIS to MANAGER of GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Is he, in his capacity as Manager of Government Business, aware of comments made by the Northern Territory News that the government's legislative program is in disarray? Is this the case and can the minister assure the public that the government's legislative program is in good order?

ANSWER

Somebody has suggested that that is a Dorothy Dixer. I cannot accept

that. It does leave me at something of a loss to understand the logic behind the journalist's conclusions. He is after all, and I say this with sincerity, a very experienced and very respected political columnist. I would have thought that the present state of legislation before this House reflects the consistency in the way the CLP is governing. The opposition, no doubt, would treat the legislation in a more cavalier fashion. The fact is that this government does not believe in closeting itself in dimly-lit backrooms, making hard and fast rules and then demanding that this parliament slavishly enact its legislation. The fact is that, on many occasions, the only way you can get a public reaction - the Mining Bill is a very good example of this - is by introducing legislation so that people will then very closely consider it.

If you look back over the record of the government, you will find examples like the Mental Health Bill, Education, Mining, Electoral, Dogs, Firearms, Liquor, Consumer Legislation, the TIO Bill, the complementary Aboriginal land rights legislation and so on. All of those bills would have had in the order of 30-plus amendments and, on a number of occasions, have been reintroduced into this House in the consolidated form for convenience to members. The plain fact is that this government governs by consultation in response to the public and we will not withdraw from that position. Where the public has a meaningful contribution and input, by way of amendment to legislation, this government will listen to that input and will act on it. We do not assume as, judging from it's interjections, obviously the Labor Party would, that we have the sole wisdom of government. We believe that the community has a role to play in the formation of legislation through the committee stages of the parliament and that is the reason for the wide-ranging amendments to the legislation.

1470 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has agreement been reached with local government authorities in the Northern Territory for the staffing of libraries which are being transferred to local government? Will library staff be employed by his department or by the municipalities?

ANSWER

Negogiations are being carried out for the takeover of the Casuarina Library on 1 July by the Corporation of the City of Darwin. The Department of Community Development will provide the financial assistance for staffing and equipping the library for a 1-year period. It is then hoped that the corporation will take the library over completely. The same type of negotiations will be entered into with Alice Springs corporation on completion of their library which should be in May or June this year. As the small regional local government centres such as Tennant Creek and Katherine Council complete their infrastructures for libraries, the same arrangements will apply. The department will fund and provide the services for the first 12 months to establish what the expenses of the facilities will be. Negotiations will then be carried out between the corporations and the government on the future funding of those libraries.

1471 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can the minister inform me of any progress on the building of the boat

ramp at Nhulunbuy beach?

ANSWER

I understand that lease negotiations are currently taking place between the traditional owners and the Chief Minister's Department. My proposal would be that, as soon as those lease negotiations have been concluded, the item will be submitted for the 1980-81 capital works program.

1472 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it his intention to bring forward regulations concerning the amateur fishing and fishermen in the Northern Territory and, if so, when?

ANSWER

It is not the government's intention to bring forward regulations in respect of amateur fishermen at present.

1473 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER

When will the rural development guidelines put out by the planning people for the rural area be adopted?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, to some degree, the processing of a draft rural plan has been put outside my control. However, I understand the deliberations by the Rural Area Planning Authority have been completed and the department is now doing a collation of the objections and suggestions by the authority for possible amendments to the plan before it is adopted. I expect these to be with me within 3 weeks. I will ask the department if it can shorten that time a little bit. It has been of concern to me that is has taken so long to get a plan over rural Darwin. The need has been recognised for many years. The draft plan went on display for 3 months last year and, since that time, the Rural Area Planning Authority has been considering objections to the plan and suggestions for amendments. After the plan reaches my hands, I will consider what recommendations I will be making to Executive Council as far as the final adoption is concerned. However, I am anxious that such a plan be completed and brought into operation at the earliest possible date.

1475 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has the construction of a solar-powered capacity at the Yulara Tourist Village been put out to public tender? If not, will he ensure that Australian Companies will be allowed to tender for the project.

ANSWER

To the best of my knowledge, there are not many people in the world who are prepared to tender for the provision of solar-powered appliances or whatever. I must make an exception of solar hot water systems. These have become very commonplace. When the government first decided to look at the prospects of introducing solar power wherever it could, it was mindful of the fact that there are not very many people in the world who are involved in the scheme and, when we got this advice from the Western Australian Energy Commission, no one that we were aware of was interested in tendering for a fixed price. They all wanted to tender on the basis of a cost plus price such as aircraft manufacturers do. Very few of the companies in the world have sufficient technology to provide the sort of solar power generation units that we would need in the Northern Territory.

As a result of my discussions with the Western Australian Energy Commission, we received a proposal from McDonnell Douglas Aero Space Corporation who are building a facility in America under the auspices of the American government. They said to us: 'We are doing this project and we would like to make you aware of it. There are the principles of it. We cannot give you a cost but we would be very interested in establishing an Australian-based industry to provide similar units in Australia. We see the Northern Territory, the north of Queensland and the north of Western Australia as being areas that are particularly interesting to us. Is your government in the Northern Territory interested in our proposal?' I was personally interested to see what the Americans would come up with. They maintained that the technology that they developed resulted from their space program when they were heavily involved in putting a man on the moon with the American government space administration during the late 1960's. They said that we must accept the fact that the technology will be difficult, time-consuming and expensive. If we enter into the project on that basis, in the course of time we should all get somewhere.

I had the opportunity to visit the McDonnell Douglas facility in San Diego to look at the work they were doing there. I have had a further meeting with the vice-president of the company who was in Australia recently. I would like to inform the House that on 30 April, which is just a week away, the company will be submitting to the Northern Territory government a proposal for the possible erection of a solar-powered power-station to be built at a place in the Centre, hopefully at Ayers Rock because it would have a very practical application there. I cannot pre-empt the submission but I would say the government is very interested in being involved in the development of this technology. The federal government has said that it would be prepared to consider a proposal from the Territory to encourage the development of such technology in the Territory. As soon as we have the proposal and the details are available, I would be quite happy to advise members of the contents. Ultimately, Cabinet will have to take a decision on whether it is prepared to go ahead with it.

1476 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will construction commence on the Mindil Beach casino?

ANSWER

Under the terms of the act and the agreement for licensing casinos in the Northern Territory, it is necessary for the developers to seek approval from myself for the actual builder they propose to use in such contracts. I have recently given approval to the Darwin builder. The contract is expected to be let between the casino company and the builder within the next couple of weeks and construction is expected to start immediately. It has been a very long and difficult job for the company. The prices that they received in their tenders were substantially above earlier estimates and they had a period of negotiation between the contractors and the companies attempting to see if they could not bring the price down a little. However, agreement has been reached and there has been a substantial amount of work done on the Mindil site already even though it is not visible. Very substantial sums have been spent on the site and I would hope to see buildings erected there within the next few months. They assure me that construction will start immediately the contract is let.

1477 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is he aware that an Australian company, Anutech, is already constructing a small solar power facility in White Cliffs in New South Wales and would have the capacity to construct a facility at Yulara. If so, will he ensure that the construction of the facility at Yulara is put to public tender?

ANSWER

I am aware of the facility that is being constructed in New South Wales and I would put it to the honourable member that it is a little different from the one proposed by the McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Corporation. The one in New South Wales is a relatively small unit and I am not casting disparaging remarks on that at all but it is different to the unit that we are looking at for a town the size of the Yulara Village. We anticipate that, at Yulara Village, we will need an electricity supply capable of supplying power to about 6,000 tourists a day. The proposal by McDonnell Douglas is for a 1-megawatt station in the initial stages but with the capacity to turn it to 2 megawatts when the time is ripe. I have had correspondence with the company to which the honourable member refers. Its unit is much smaller and would not be suitable for that particular application. It would not discourage the government from entering into discussions with the people who have this technology to put the smaller unit in smaller communities in the Northern Territory.

I do not think going to tender and picking out either the cheapest or what appears to be the most logical deal would necessarily be in the interests of the Northern Territory people. One of the interesting things that has occurred is that the Japanese have emerged in the last couple of months with a solar power-station comparable to the one envisaged for Ayers Rock. Where the American unit collects the sun's rays from the side and reflects them up to the heat-collecting tower,

the Japanese unit collects the rays from underneath and reflects them up. The Japanese unit reflects the attitude of people living next to the equator. Their proposal is applicable to any place near the equator where the sun is most often overhead. The American one is developed by people who live away from the equator. The process of collecting the sun's rays at the side and sending them back into the tower is most applicable to places away from the equator. The scientific people that I spoke to - we had discussions with the Atomic Energy Commission in Sydney recently - have indicated that, if you turned those 2 stations round and put the Japanese unit in the Centre and the McDonnell Douglas unit in the north, there would be a great difference in the performance of the 2 units because of the way they collect the sun's rays and their relationship to the equator.

The White Cliffs' exercise that the honourable member speaks about is a third one again. I believe the Italians are entering the field and we have had discussions with them on their proposal. I think it is in our best interest to take these exercises as they come, particularly with Australian companies, and apply them if we can to whatever sites in the Northern Territory we feel they have an application in. If the honourable member is trying to draw from the government a guarantee that Australian companies will get the running, I can assure him that the attitude of this government is to do that. We would see that as our role and in the best interests of our community and the country rather than just paper and overseas units. The truth is that we do not really have all the technology to do the things we want.

I have made arrangements to talk to the people who are providing the facility at White Cliffs as soon as possible to listen to their proposal and to have NTEC or Mines and Energy enter into discussions with them on how and where we might use their unit in the Northern Territory. I am of the view, and this comes back to my philosophy as an individual, that we are breaking technology. It is going to be slow and costly and it is going to have plenty of mistakes but that applies to the breaking of any technology whoever you are or wherever you are. It does not matter how much money you have in you pocket; you are not going to buy shortcuts in technological development. If we enter into it on the basis of being aware of all those things and try to the do best we can, in the long term the people of the Northern Territory will get a great deal of benefit out of our efforts. I would just say as a final note: yes, we would be more than happy to talk to the people in NSW if they wish.

1478 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

My question concerns a NSW building society utilising the Ayers Rock for publicity purposes. I ask the Chief Minister what he is going to do about it?

ANSWER

This is an interesting question from the member for Stuart who lives not too far from Ayers Rock which is perhaps the best known symbol of the Northern Territory throughout Australia and indeed throughout the world. Certainly, my limited travels throughout the world have left me with the impression that most people overseas think Australia is a large island off New Zealand and that Ayers Rock is somewhere in this

country. They know about Ayers Rock and the Great Barrier Reef. In promoting the Territory, Ayers Rock is much used by our Tourist Commission and indeed by all operators who sent tours to that area. Last year, Ayers Rock had the greatest number of visitors of any spot in the Territory - between 80,000 and 100,000 people. As the Minister for Mines and Energy has just mentioned, when the Yulara Tourist Village is completed at a total cost of to government and private expenditure of $75m, we do expect a maximum daily visitor turnover of about 6,000 people. This is many more than in the very small community of White Cliffs that the honourable Leader of the Opposition was talking about. That consists of a couple of hundred people up in the north-west corner of New South Wales.

Apparently, a New South Wales building society, whether for genuine, publicity or promotional reasons, has seized on the use of Ayers Rock and has apparently tied it with a slogan somewhat to the effect that the building society is as solid as the Rock. The Northern Territory, in launching its loan No 2 and subsequently its No 3 loan, has been using the Rock as a symbol of the solidity and stability of the Territory loan, backed as it is by the Commonwealth government. Our public relations people have used this slogan on our material saying that the loan is as solid as the Rock.

Apparently, this building society in New South Wales, which I have never really heard of previously even though it may be well known in New South Wales, has taken umbrage at the Northern Territory government's use of the symbol Ayers Rock and this wording. Apparently, legal proceedings are now taking place in Sydney and indeed there is an application by the building society for an injunction and it may even be heard today or tomorrow. The building society is attempting to preclude the Northern Territory government from using Ayers Rock as an advertising symbol and to require the absolute and sole use of that symbol of Ayers Rock for its own private purposes.

I suppose that this building society has had to go through various registration procedures and is required to account for its activities annually. Whatever its solidity and whatever its security, I doubt that it would come anywhere near the solidity and stability of the Northern Territory government backed financially by the Commonwealth of Australia. Whilst I am not opposed to people using their ingenuity in promoting their product, I do think that it is in fairly poor taste that this building society should attempt to use the Territory's major tourist symbol for its own private purposes. I am absolutely appalled by the fact that it should attempt to stop the Northern Territory using its major international symbol and every possible measure will be taken by this government to ensure that we continue to use Ayers Rock as a symbol of Northern Territory activity wherever we feel the need exists.

1479 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Which firm of advertising consultants, if any, was retained to handle the advertising for the Northern Territory government loans nos 2 and 3 and how much was the firm paid?

ANSWER

I hesitate because I am trying to recall the name of the company. I can certainly provide it. The same advertising company handled the advertising promotions of the 3 Northern Territory government loans to date. It is an Adelaide based company. I cannot provide off the cuff the amount that it was paid for the promotions. It has certainly done an excellent job and certainly earned its money. However, I will undertake to obtain the information in detail and provide it to the honourable member.

1480 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Regarding electricity reticulation in caravan parks, what plans are there to rationalise this use by caravan park tenants with regard to domestic rates and commercial rates?

ANSWER

This saga has been going on for at least 3 years. I would like to advise the honourable member that we have made provision through the Northern Territory Electricity Commission for people living in caravan parks to avail themselves of the domestic rate of power which is considerably cheaper than the commercial rate. This is in parks that install, at their own cost and responsibility, separate meters for each site. Now, I have had quite a few discussions with all the caravan park owners from time to time and they have all put the case that, while some of them have a very desperate need to install individual power meters, other caravan parks have absolutely no application at all because they deal with overnighters and bus camping tours. For the honourable member's information, if she has constituents or caravan park owners who are concerned at paying the industrial rate for power, they have the option of installing separate meters on all their sites to provide their customers with the cheaper rate and this will be done with the full cooperation of NTEC.

1481 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

My question refers to the proposed stock feed legislation. Has a submission to prepare the legislation yet gone to Cabinet and, if not, when is such a submission likely to be prepared?

ANSWER

I will have to look at the matter today and advise the honourable member this afternoon.

1482 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise on the Northern Territory requirements concerning the provision of the emission control equipment on motor vehicles? What effect, if any, would the removal of such equipment have on vehicles under warranty?

ANSWER

There is no requirement under Northern Territory law to have vehicles

equipped with the emission controls. I would warn those persons thinking of removing that equipment that they might negate their warranty in some aspects. In addition, they might have difficulty getting their vehicle registered. These are the 2 aspects they should care to consider.

1483 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it true that the $150,000 allocated by the federal government for transitional programs in the Northern Territory from school to work will be spent by the Northern Territory government on a study of the need for such a program?

ANSWER

As far as I know, there is no proposal to study the need for such a program. Every honourable member here would certainly be aware of the need for the program to commence. I have received a proposal from the Commonwealth minister and, to the best of my recollection, my department is proceeding with the implementation of the program. I might add, Mr Speaker, that it is rather similar to the Commonwealth Department of Social Security's involvement in pre-schools. The Commonwealth seems to come up with an excellent idea and makes an offer to the various state governments. The state governments then respond, as we did as the Territory government in respect of the Commonwealth's offer of funding the transitional program, and the Commonwealth then turns around and tells you what is good for your own system. As a result, there are disagreements and delays between the state governments and the Commonwealth. I think that the sooner the Commonwealth realises that the state governments appreciate their money but not their interference, the more expeditiously and the more efficiently these programs will be brought on line.

I commend the Commonwealth for its initiative in this area. While it must be satisfied that the money is spent properly, it ought to leave the nuts and bolts and the mechanics of the program to states which better understand their own needs than the Commonwealth does. That is one of the reasons why this party, against the opposition of our opponents opposite, sought self-government and has turned it into a success. Nonetheless, the Commonwealth is rather reluctant to stay at home on all things.

1484 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the present status of the proposed road to Rainbow Cliffs?

ANSWER

The proposition to construct a recreation road to Rainbow Cliffs at Nhulunbuy is supported. At present, negotiations are taking place with the traditional owners and, as soon as their agreement is available, we will proceed with the road.

1485 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the work on the Ludmilla-Fannie Bay connector road been further delayed? If so, can the minister explain the reasons for this delay and advise the amended completion date for the contract?

ANSWER

The road construction has been delayed somewhat. This was caused mainly by excessive rainfalls in January. It is expected that the roadwork will be completed some time towards the end of May.

1486 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the government give consideration to the Tiwi people selling dugong and turtle in certain situations and under certain conditions?

ANSWER

Certainly the government would give consideration to Aboriginal people, under certain circumstances and in certain conditions, selling dugong or turtle - perhaps selling it in their own community on a limited basis. However, I would ask the honourable member to put the question on notice so that I can have it properly examined. Before I seek the advice of the Conservation Commission, I ask the honourable member to let me have details of what the Tiwi people actually want to do.

1487 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The Northern Territory government has commissioned yet another consultant to do the survey of the eastern portion of the Alice Springs commonage. When will the results of this survey be known?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of the completion date included in the brief that has been given to a consultant to determine the best usage of the commonage area in Alice Springs. I will undertake to obtain the information for the honourable member. At present, I understand the consultant is seeking the view of all interested parties in Alice Springs to put together a proposal to government on an overall development plan for the area. Recently, the government has had specific proposals for parts of the commonage and there have been a number of applications by various organisations for land in the commonage. It is a limited area which should be planned in a total context before land is released in the area.

1488 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I have asked on other occasions when the city area is to be provided with a decent library facility. Where and when will such a facility be provided?

ANSWER

I am quite happy to say that negotiations have been carried out with the owners of Centrepoint for the establishment of a Darwin library. The area that has been negotiated for is 500 square metres and we hope to occupy the premises some time in October.

1489 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is it a fact that the Territory Insurance Office has recently purchased from North Contructions Pty Ltd lot 1519 Town of Darwin situated on

the corner of Searcy and Smith Streets for $450,000? Is it further fact that the Northern Territory Housing Commission has been instructed to hand back to the government for re-allocation to the TIO lot 1521 in Searcy Street? If so, what are the reasons for these transactions?

ANSWER

The Territory Insurance Office has indeed purchased the lot in question. I do not know if that is the right number but it is certainly the right address. I am not completely familar with the price but it was in the vicinity of $450,000. The adjoining block along side was vested in the care and control of the Housing Commission which did not have any specific plans for it. I directed the Housing Commission to hand the block back to the Department of Lands and Housing whereupon the department would negotiate with the Territory Insurance Office on the sale of the block. There is no connotation whatsoever that the Territory Insurance Office, in considering this investment on behalf of its policyholders, would be obtaining land from the government for free and I doubt that a case would be mounted for concessional treatment either. The Territory Insurance Office is having a proposal put together which will be submitted to myself and to Cabinet for a major development of its own on the sites in question.

1490 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The Darwin Aviation Club in Parap in my electorate was burnt down some time ago. Will the minister advise if discussions have been held between his departmental officers and officers of the club about the future use of that land and, if so, what will be its future use and the use of adjacent vacant crown land in the area?

ANSWER

I do not have specific details in my mind to respond to the honourable member's question. The best course of action would be for her to put the question on notice. There have been proposals floated for use of the old hangar in the vacant crown land area as a possible museum. I am not sure who the applicant is so the matter could be a little complex and I suggest that a question on notice would be the best way.

1491 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the government any plans to bring or allow the bringing of live kangaroos or kangaroo meat from the expected harvest in New South Wales to the Northern Territory for hunting and use of Aboriginals in the Tiwi islands considering that this meat is grossly favoured by the Tiwi people?

ANSWER

I have actually been able to get some information on this subject this morning, would you believe? Kangaroos in the Tiwi islands are a different species from those in New South Wales. It would be considered unwise to bring different animals from New South Wales to be released in the Northern Territory. There would be no objection in principle to the importation of kangaroo meat for human consumption if health and quarantine requirements were met. Such meat is not available at present

although trials for export are being undertaken. If a demand for such importation was made from Aboriginal communities in the Territory, the matter could be taken up by the Conservation Commission and the Department of Primary Production. I am informed that it would be possible to restock the Tiwi islands with live agile wallabis from the Top End if they are as satisfactory as New South Wales kangaroos. I would think that a Northern Territory live agile wallaby would be worth 2 New South Wales kangaroos.

1492 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

I pursue the matter of the recent TIO purchase. Is the minister aware that lots 2191 and 2192 in Smith Street, which are in the same locality as land purchased recently by the TIO, have been for sale for some months for $300,000 and, if so, why did the Territory Insurance Office not attempt to purchase these 2 lots?

ANSWER

I could not say that they did not attempt to purchase the lots. It seems a rather odd question. If the lots were for sale, they would not have to attempt to purchase them; they could merely purchase them provided they felt that the price versus the siting constituted a reasonable proposition. I do not feel that I can answer the honourable member's question.

1494 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did the Kailis company seek assistance from the Northern Territory government over the last 12 months? If so, in what form and what, if any, assistance was given?

ANSWER

The Kailis company sought assistance from the Territory Development Corporation. I indicated yesterday that the requirements of the corporation had not been met so that the full assessment of the proposal could be completed. There was no indication at any time that assistance would not be forthcoming. The matter had been considered on one occasion by the corporation. It certainly had not come through the Cabinet for final consideration.

1495 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

What power does the Department of Health have over keeping livestock in the rural area?

ANSWER

The primary responsibility for looking after animals in the rural area is not the responsibility of the Department of Health. However, the department has the responsibility for general sanitation, mosquito prevention, rat exclusion and prevention, and regulations relating to public health. If the holding of animals in the rural area came into conflict with any of those regulations which are the prerogative of the Health Department, then the department has an involvement in that sense.

1496 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware that the Housing Commission is writing to Housing Commission tenants advising them that, unless they mow the grass on their footpaths, the commission will do it and charge the tenants for the cost? If he is aware of this fact, would he issue instructions that the practice cease forthwith?

ANSWER

I can assure the honourable member for Nightcliff that I will do exactly that. I was alarmed to learn this morning that the commission has been hoodwinked by the Darwin City Council into believing that the responsibility for mowing footpaths rests with the ratepayer concerned. As the Housing Commission is the ratepayer in regard to its rental houses, it felt that it was obliged to encourage its tenants to mow these lawns. I would like to make it very clear here that the responsibility to mow footpaths will stay where it belongs with the city council in Darwin. I have already given instructions to the Housing Commission to withdraw the notices to mow footpaths that have been served on persons. It will certainly not continue sending further notices. We will be corresponding with the corporation on the matter to make our feelings very clear to them.

1497 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the position of the present appointment of a doctor at Jabiru

East? What are future plans of the Department of Health regarding another appointment?

ANSWER

I understand that the doctor that was posted to Jabiru recently resigned. The department has had some difficulty finding a person to fill the position permanently or on a long-term basis. We have started advertising overseas to try to recruit staff. At this stage, it would appear that the filling of the position at Jabiru will be as difficult as filling the ones at Groote and Tennant Creek. The problem is always professional isolation. However, we will be working to solve the problem as soon as possible.

1498 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

My question touches on problems previously raised by the Arnold Report and then again in an article in the Star this morning. Is it true that some workers at Ranger have not been issued with radiation detection devices? Is it further true that some workers at Ranger have not been given medical examinations? Is it further true that some workers at Ranger have not been warned of health problems on site? If these things are true, will the minister assure the House that these problems will be rectified instantly.

ANSWER

I can give the honourable member an assurance that the matter will be looked into forthwith. In the time available to us today, I would not be able to report back to him before lunch when we are likely to adjourn. I can give him an undertaking that the matters will be investigated and I will report to him in writing at the first opportunity.

1499 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

My question relates to the urgent need to commence redevelopment of the Dhupuma College. Is he aware of widespread concern by the East Arnhem community about the possible adverse effects of relocating the college closer to Nhulunbuy and of the anxiety for an urgent decision on the future of the college? If so, what information can the minister give the House?

ANSWER

I am indeed aware of the expressions of concern by a wide range of people, teachers included, at Dhupuma College as to the location and the government commitment to the future of Dhupuma College. Having regard to the complexity of this matter, it would be best left until next week when I propose making a full statement to the House outlining the government's intentions.

1500 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The old museum block situated in Smith Street is in a disgraceful mess. There is long grass and coffee bush growing all over the place. Has a decision been made on the future use of that particular block and when can he have the lawnmowers moved in to have this long grass and coffee bush removed?

ANSWER

I will take all steps to have the block cleared up as soon as possible. As I understand it, some $50,000 has been made available for minor repairs to protect what rooms are there at the moment. I was unaware that the block was in a shambles and I will ask the department to take steps to rectify that immediately.

1501 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I trust the honourable minister has had time to check his correspondence since yesterday. When did the minister reach an agreement with his federal colleagues as to the alteration in the disposal of the $257,000 Schools Commission grant and can the minister give the House an assurance that such grants in future will be given a separate allocation in the budget?

ANSWER

It is true that the allocations of the Schools Commission should normally warrant a separate mention in the budgetary papers. I was somewhat disappointed with the media treatment of the debate. I am quite sure that even the honourable member for Arnhem would not have thought that it was quite fair. I expect that it had nothing to do with the journalist who reported the debate. It was probably the result of trying to squash an article into a newspaper. The easiest way to do that is to omit half the debate and thereby give a completely distorted view. That would have happened in the subediting department and would not have been caused by the person who prepared the article.

Let me cover the exact expenditures involved in this matter of the Schools Commission funds. As I said yesterday, the entire basis of the allegations of the honourable member for Arnhem were completely without foundation. It is a shame that that never got through to the public. I will just give some figures of expenditure by this government with School Commission funds and with its own significant additional funds in the areas of disadvantaged schools both urban and country. Mr Speaker, the 5 declared principal schools that were originally envisaged were Nightcliff High, Alice Springs High, Rapid Creek Primary School, Primary and Berrimah Primary School. It was agreed with the Schools Commission and the federal minister - I do not have the dates of correspondence as I still have not dug those out - at an early date that they were schools of disadvantage. Negotiations were carried out right from the outset when my department was a whole one month old. While of course there is a very strict onus on government to carry out the rules of the game, the document from which the honourable member was reading yesterday detailed recommendations not dictated. We realised that, if we were going to get a program going forthwith for the disadvantaged schools in the Northern Territory, there would be absolutely no prospect of going through all of the recommendations required by the Schools Commission. We entered into negotiations forthwith so that the program of spending this money on schools could be commended forthwith instead of worrying about bureaucratic rules.

For those identified schools for the period of 1980, which is the main one the honourable member was talking about, the expenditure approved by the committee - the one he said we had not referred to - with the exception of Rapid Creek Primary School where a problem with the home

liaison officer has now been resolved, a total of $137,000. I will not go through the detailed breakup but it is available to the honourable member. I would suspect he has already got the figures. So the expenditure is $137,500. In respect of services and development identified for 1980, it is $125,000. In addition to that, for disadvantaged non-government schools identified for 1980, it is $7,500. For disadvantaged country areas identified for 1980, it is $112,000. For children in residential institutions, again for disadvantaged areas identified for 1980, it is $12,500 and for multi-cultural education for disadvantaged areas, it is $21,500. If the honourable member wants to do some arithmetic, he will find that we have not only spent the $257,000 of the Commonwealth allocation through the Schools Commission with the approval of the schools commission and the federal minister, indeed, this government has significantly added to those figures.

1502 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What are the agricultural programs currently in operation and planned in the future for prisons in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

We have an agricultural program out at Gunn Point. Unfortunately, that is being evaluated at the moment because of the lack of water. However, the government is at the moment investigating other sites in the Darwin area for a prison farm. At the same time, I will be taking a proposal to my Cabinet colleagues to establish a prison farm in the Alice Springs area. At the moment, the only crop that has been successfully grown at Gunn Point was a good peanut crop last year. They were able to produce enough vegetables in the salad lines to supply the Darwin area prisons but, until such time as the water problem is resolved at Gunn Point, I am in no position to give the member any further information.

1503 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has he noticed any increase in the incidence of road accidents on the Arnhem Highway and, if so, what does he propose to do about it?

ANSWER

I have not got any information on the Arnhem Highway in front of me so I ask that the question be placed on notice.

1504 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware that a highly successful hydroponics program was underway at the Gunn Point prison farm? The only reason it stopped was to enlarge the area. Can he give an assurance to this House that money will be made available to allow the enlargement to go ahead so that the hydroponics program can progress?

ANSWER

Yes, I am aware of the successful hydroponics plant system out at Gunn Point but, unfortunately, I cannot give the honourable member an assurance that further funds will be made available because, as I just said a few moments ago, Gunn Point is under question because of the water supply out there.

1505 Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

Is the Treasurer able to indicate progress in the Territory Loan No 3 which commenced on 14 April?

ANSWER

I do not have specific details of the amount raised to date of the Northern Territory Loan No 3 which closes on 2 May. However, I am informed that it is going very successfully and, as the Chief Minister suggested, as solid as the rock. There is every indication that the loan will be fully subscribed as were the Northern Territory government Loans Nos 1 and 2. The loan which is out at the present time offers a very attractive 11.7% interest rate. We believe that it will be fully subscribed and the government's program will be met.

1506 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he advise the House of the current status of the proposal to rehabilitate the Rum Jungle mine?

ANSWER

I did not have a perennial answer for the honourable member prepared so I will endeavour to obtain the information and give it to him on Tuesday next week.

1507 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In the answer that he just gave me regarding agricultural programs, he omitted any mention of the Berrimah prison farm. What agricultural programs are currently in operation or planned for the Berrimah prison farm?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

1508 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it the policy of the Northern Territory government to construct its own office accommodation or to encourage private enterprise development? Is it a fact that the Northern Territory government is constructing or about to announce the construction of 4 new premises for the Housing Commission, Police headquarters, TIO and Electricity Commission.

ANSWER

It is the policy of the Northern Territory government to find such accommodation for public service requirements in the Northern Territory as is best in all the particular circumstances at the time. Approximately 50% of the Northern Territory Public Service at present is accommodated in government office buildings inherited by the Territory government from the Commonwealth. I am only giving my estimations because I certainly do not have figures for this from the Public Service Commissioner who has the responsibility for finding accommodation for the Northern Territory Public Service. I would say that another 50% of the public service is accommodated in buildings such as the Palmerston

Building, which was erected by the AMP society, and in buildings such as the City Mutual Insurance, the Royal Globe Insurance and the new building on the Esplanade called Minerals House which now houses the Department of Mines and Energy. I understand that building is owned by the public service superannuation fund as is the Hooker building which also has its share of public servants located in it.

Of the 45 bodies mentioned by the honourable member for Port Darwin, 3 of them are statutory authorities. The Housing Commission announced 2 years ago that it is building a new headquarters at Casuarina. The actual foundations have been dug and quite a bit of concrete has been poured. I think you can see the rough outline of the building itself out beside the Casuarina Shopping Centre. I seem to recall the Minister for Lands and Housing saying in this House a very long time ago that the funds for that construction came from a surplus of insurance moneys received by the commission at the time of the cyclone. It was really a windfall and it requested that it be allowed to use it to construct its headquarters at Casuarina.

We then considered a new police headquarters. I am informed the present police headquarters is inadequate and the police have been negotiating through the Public Service Commissioner and appropriate people in an attempt to have a satisfactory headquarters building provided. There were negotiations with at least one private organisation to build a new police headquarters building. Unfortunately, the arrangements could not be satisfactorily made because the police have particular requirements. If the police were to give up the lease of the building at any time, a private entrepreneur might well be left with a building that was unsuitable for leasing to any other organisation.

That is the only government direct instrumentality that I think was mentioned. The Territory Insurance Office is required to operate as near as possible on the same terms as any commercial insurance organisation. It has an investment policy. I think the honourable member for Sanderson asked some questions about a block of land that the TIO bought in Darwin. I understand that this building is proposed by the TIO for that particular block of land. I do not think the government should dictate to the TIO what its investment policy will be but, at the same time, the TIO cannot expect the government to come in as a tenant of any of its buildings. If it wants the government as a tenant, it will have to compete with private enterprise. We appointed a board of the TIO that consists of men experienced in commerce and in actuary. Presumably, this is what they have come up with as one of their first and presumably prime investments. Many other insurance companies invest in real estate and there is nothing very startling in that.

Finally, I think we came to the Northern Territory Electricity Commission. It is true that the Northern Territory Electricity Commission has ambitions to build a headquarters of its own in the old railway yards where it has most of its workshops these days. The rationale of the Electricity Commission is that it believes the white collar workers should be on the same location as the blue collar workers and that they mix together. The important thing that the principal commissioner believes is to establish an esprit de corps within the commission itself. I believe electricity authorities throughout Australia and throughout the world regard themselves as fairly exclusive organisations and apparently this is their rationale. I think they have had one go at the Town Planning

Tribunal to obtain an approval of the site in the railway yard at Salonika and they came away with their fingers burnt. It may well be that they will be having another go in a different way. The police must have an adequate headquarters and, if they do have to move out of their Mitchell and Bennett Street headquarters, there certainly will not be any fewer people accommodated there. It is simply that the Darwin Police Station is outgrowing the space in the building available to it. The whole headquarters and police station buildings will be needed for the Darwin Police Station. There will not be any movement of people out of the city area.

I understand there are thoughts at the moment that the headquarters may well be sited down near that new powerhouse at Berrimah. That appears to be a fairly logical position for it when you consider that there will be a new city built which I understand is called Palmerston by my colleague the Minister for Lands and Housing. I do not think there is any reason for the honourable member for Port Darwin to be concerned at the possible construction of office accommodation by some of these authorities. I think there is particular justification in each case and I do not believe that it would mean the removal of any significant numbers of people from the city of Darwin. With the considerable additional amount of private construction going on in the city area at present, it is obvious that people will fill those buildings. I can see the Darwin city area thriving. Indeed, every day you drive down the street, you see the foundations of another building starting. It seems to me that the city area, with the construction of the mall and plans going ahead for parking stations and the like, is really coming alive and becoming the commercial heart of the Territory and of this city.

1509 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Why did the Education Department adult education section assist the Noranda Uranium Mining Company to prepare pro-uranium booklets for Aboriginal communities? Will this practice of the Department of Education assisting uranium mining companies to prepare their propaganda for Aboriginal communities continue?

ANSWER

The honourable gentleman has just made an allegation and I have no doubt he wants the media to print it as a statement of fact. Nonetheless, I know nothing of what the honourable gentleman says. I must say it is rather interesting that the honourable member should raise this yet he has never raised the numerous allegations that have been made in the past about certain government instrumentalities aiding and abetting his side in the anti-uranium campaign. This seems to demonstrate to me a rather split sense of values. I certainly know nothing of it. It is not the role of any adult education service to be either pro or anti uranium mining. Adult educators have been known to be involved in the dissemination of fact and the assistance of understanding and I see that as a reasonable role as long as it does not become for or against. They are not in the business of advocacy. The guidelines set down by the department for the modus operandi of adult educators in communities are very firm, very clear and very precise. As minister, I certainly expect that the departmental officers will insist that those guidelines are adhered to. It is certainly not the policy of this government that departments and agencies within government should be used for this

sort of propaganda at all.

1510 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is legislation pending or being considered to regulate the pet meat industry?

ANSWER

Because of the recent incidence of pet meat going interstate and subsequently being found to be substandard, we are looking at a complete overhaul of the legislation and of the procedures involved with the slaughter and inspection of pet met.

1511 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The other day in the House he stated that, of the 80 points of the log of claims served by prison officers, 63 had been resolved. Would he table in the House next week details of the 63 points in the log of claims which have been resolved?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would be reluctant to table them in the House but I have no objection to the honourable member for Nightcliff having a look at them.

1516 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can the minister inform the House as to whether the joint study between the Northern Territory and Australian governments into the feasibility of the continuation of the railway line from Alice Springs to Darwin has been completed and, if so, will he make public the document as suggested it would be by the Chief Minister?

ANSWER

The report in question is not before the government at the present time. I would suggest that the government would want to consider its position in respect of negotiations with the Commonwealth and decide at that time whether to make the Report public to everybody.

1517 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the plan of management devised by the national parks service for the Kakadu Park being made public yet and, if so, why have I not received a copy as the Kakadu Park is in my electorate? Has a copy of this paper been sent to the Sessional Committee for the Environment?

ANSWER

I am not responsible for the Kakadu Park plan of management because it has been prepared by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. However, I do understand that it has been made public and is open for comment. Distribution of the document, I again emphasise, is the responsibility of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. We endeavoured to ascertain the extent of distribution but a representative of that service in Darwin was unable to advise of the extent but has certainly promised to mail a copy to the honourable member for Tiwi. I do not know whether a copy has been sent to the Sessional Committee on the Environment but no doubt the secretary of that committee can take the matter up direct with the ANPWS.

1518 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I must preface my question briefly by saying that, on visiting a prisoner on Sunday, I was instructed by the guards not to discuss with the prisoner matters relating to prisons, prison administration or the Prisons Bill before the Assembly. On whose instructions were these edicts issued? What is the purpose of issuing such instructions and is this the minister's policy?

ANSWER

I was not aware that the prison officers were advised not to speak to the honourable member for Nightcliff. However, I find it a bit strange to understand by virtue of the fact that the honourable member has been out to the Berrimah prison on several occasions. I am quite sure that the prison officers have been courteous on most occasions and, if the director has issued such a directive to prison officers . . .

Mrs Lawrie: The minister has misunderstood my question. The prison officers advised me that I was not to discuss with the prisoner who I was visiting any matters relating to prisons, prison administration or legislation dealing with prisoners.

Mr DONDAS: I will endeavour to find out the information she requires and supply it to her at a later date.

1519 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has Tracy Lodge applied to have meals on wheels prepared at the lodge itself instead of at Casuarina Hospital where they are presently prepared and, if so, will the government be supporting its application?

ANSWER

I am aware that the Department of Health has recently taken over the funding and preparation of the meals for the meals on wheels organisation right throughout the Territory wherever it has been possible. The department has also moved to coordinate and rationalise the operation so that it is as cost effective as possible. If the honourable member is advising me that an independent organisation is prepared to undertake the preparation of meals on wheels in conjunction with the Health Department or by way of separate funding, I am not aware of such a proposal I have no fixed opinion on whether it should be so and I would like to seek the advice of the department on the matter before we proceed any further with it.

1520 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

The minister will be aware of community concern about recent loadings of live cattle at Darwin wharf. What action is the minister taking to ensure that future live cattle loadings will be better managed?

ANSWER

This has been a problem for the last 2 seasons - last year during the dry season and with the commencement of cattle loading for live shipment overseas this year. In my discussions with the Port Authority and the people handling the stock, it seems that further modifications must take place on the race. I am aware that there is a cost factor involved but I am assured that the required modifications will take place. However, there are always some difficulties with the handling of feral animals. Some of these cattle come straight out of traps where they have been mustered into by helicopters and there is some difficulty in asking them to restrain themselves from rushing around yards. On many occasions, these animals hurt themselves.

1521 Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise what action is being taken to provide councils with bylaws?

ANSWER

The subject of bylaws with the councils has been rather a complex issue. Discussions have been taking place between the Department of Community Development, the legislative draftsman and the local government associations for about 4 months. I believe that the draft bylaws are ready for circulation to Cabinet to ensure that they do proceed as quickly as possible.

1522 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Who will be responsible for the provision of sites for schools in areas

of Sanderson which have recently been leased for private subdivision?

ANSWER

The government will be responsible for the allocation of sites to the Department of Education for the construction of schools or the allocation of sites to private organisations for the construction of schools associated with other public open space that will be incorporated in designs for private subdivision in the northern suburbs of Darwin. Fortunately, through the activities of government, we have a range of very experienced developers involved in turning out new subdivisions for Darwin. The sites that are required for public use will be taken over by the government and will be allocated in the usual way.

1523 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is the government planning legislation to control the keeping of bees in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The question of regulation of the bee industry has not come before us yet. Any industry group may submit to government that their industry needs regulation for various reasons. I would not foresee in the near future that regulations or legislation would come before the government for consideration on this matter.

1524 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

As it is fairly obvious that the question of the Collia mines dispute is not sub judice, could he advise the House what steps he is taking to resolve this dispute?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to put that question on notice. I do not have the information at the moment.

1525 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has any decision been made on the future of 'Big A1's' as yet?

ANSWER

I understand that the member for Port Darwin is referring to the cafeteria on the ground floor of the Chan Building. As far as I am aware, the Chief Minister's Department is attempting to draft new tender terms for the cafeteria because, on the last occasion it was put out to tender, there were absolutely no takers. It appears that there may be some difficulties in having the cafeteria operational. Apparently, this is due to lack of interest by the private sector.

1526 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he confirm that, on occasions over the past couple of weeks, untreated sewage has been pumped into Ludmilla Creek from the central zone treatment plant because there is insufficient staff at the plant? What action has been taken to ensure that that problem will be resolved urgently?

ANSWER

I am unable to confirm that information. However, it sounds an urgent matter and I will seek the information without delay.

1527 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he say whether schools in the areas of Sanderson which have recently been leased for private subdivision will be constructed concurrently with dwellings in those areas?

ANSWER

Obviously the department is in the process of doing demographic studies. The idea of schools timing with communities is such as to ensure that there is never a circumstance whereby an increase in population causes a disproportionate number of students in any one school. The department and the government indeed would be working towards contemporaneous construction of schools such as to ensure that there is no excess pupils in any individual schools as a result of growth in population or increases over the normally accepted pupil-teacher ratios.

1528 Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise when the new Dog Act will come into force?

ANSWER

The drafting of regulations is almost complete and it is hoped that the regulations and the Dog Act will be brought together by the end of May.

1529 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the Unemployed Workers Union, the women's electoral lobby and the anti-uranium group are required to have their material approved by the Minister for Community Development before they are allowed to use the photocopying facilities of the Community Access Centre?

ANSWER

It is not true. However, the access centre is there to provide photocopying services and other small secretarial duties to community organisations operating in the Darwin area. In fact, access centres have been set up throughout the whole of the Northern Territory. There are some stipulations. Political organisations are not to use the access centre. Some church organisations are unable to use the access centre as well. The only material that the church organsiations can circulate is material of information to their members and not about the particular faith that they believe in. As far as the organisations mentioned by the honourable member, I wish to be informed of the number of copies and type of information that those organisations are using the access centre for.

1530 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he inform the House when the joint study between the Federal and Territory governments on the railway link between Alice Springs and

Darwin will be available?

ANSWER

The short answer is no.

1531 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

It has been claimed in several newspaper reports that the declaration of dry areas around some Aboriginal communities is forcing drinkers into town where they are causing many social problems. Are these reports true and, if so, what is the Liquor Commission proposing to do about it?

ANSWER

I am aware of allegations particularly in the southern half of the Territory where various groups have suggested that there has been a migration of Aboriginals into town simply to get liquor as a result of the declaration of dry areas.

I have taken this matter up with the Liquor Commission because it would certainly be defeating the purpose of the commission's intentions if this were the case. The Liquor Commissioner has advised me that the commission is watching very carefully this particular matter. It is aware of the suggestion that Aboriginals are migrating into town areas but it pointed out that this migration has been going since 1968 or whenever it was that Aboriginals attained access to alcohol. The problem is not new but it may be, in some cases, exacerbated by the declaration of dry areas. The commission has pointed out that there is no foundation in the suggestion at this stage and is purely comment from people in the respective communities.

The commission also indicated that, to this stage, it has only declared 6 dry areas throughout the Territory and that was prior to anything it did in the last 48 hours. It is very early at this stage for the commission to know whether these declarations have in fact caused a trend that will remain permanent or whether the migration into the respective communities as a result of the dry areas is just a knee-jerk reaction by some people in those communities. The commission has taken the stance at this stage that it will endeavour to see that the object of the dry areas is not thwarted by various groups in the community. It will monitor it as time goes on and it believes it is in a position to take directive action if necessary.

1532 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he indicate when he expects the Fannie Bay connector road to be open to vehicular traffic?

ANSWER

I thought I replied to this very same question last week. Nothing has crossed my desk since to indicate a change to that position.

1533 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the Minister for Community Development has told the Environment Council that it cannot use the access centre facilities on

the ground that it receives funding from the Northern Territory government?

ANSWER

I cannot recall giving that particular directive but I will explain why we set up an access centre. The access centre was set up to help small organisations that did not have the funds to buy duplicating or photocopying machines. The Environment Council has been operating for many years in the Northern Territory. It receives funding from both the Northern Territory and Commonwealth governments and, if that organisation cannot get its act together, there is no reason why it should be using the access centre.

1534 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware that the Environment Council does not any longer receive funding from the Northern Territory government and this has been the case for some considerable time?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice.

1535 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The Housing Commission has been upgrading houses owned by the commission for a number of years. There are still some houses owned by the commission in my electorate that require upgrading. Could he inform me if this program of upgrading is nearing completion?

ANSWER

I cannot give the honourable member details of exactly how many houses remain to be completely cyclone-proofed in the Housing Commission's restoration program. I certainly know that there has been a great deal done over the last few years but I cannot quite recall how many houses have been completed and how many there are to go. I will obtain the information and pass it on to the honourable member.

1536 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it true that the Northern Territory government has been negotiating with Mr Wally Bradley of Western Australia to establish prawn processing operations on Groote Eylandt? If so, how long have these negotiations been going on?

ANSWER

I am not aware of negotiations between the department and Mr Bradley from Western Australia. The department could be discussing a proposal with the gentleman concerned but the information has not come to me.

1537 Mrs O'NEIL to TREASURER

Can he advise whether there are any plans to move the overseas telecommunications station in Fannie Bay?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any particular moves or any approaches that have been made to the federal government by the Northern Territory Department of Lands and Housing to relocate the facility. It probably would not be a bad idea to have it somewhere else but I am unaware of any current moves.

1538 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Could he advise the House of the rationale behind the publishing of new guildelines for the bilingual program in Northern Territory schools?

ANSWER

I am in the process of having a statement prepared in the light of comments that have been made recently by teachers who conduct these very worthwhile programs. In order that the air be properly cleared as to what is happening in that area, it would probably be best if I made a brief statement. I will probably circulate that this afternoon.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

1535 Mr STEELE (Transport and Works): The honourable member for Nightcliff asked me whether it is intended to bring forward regulations concerning amateur fishing and fishermen in the Northern Territory. My reply was that it is not the government's intention to bring forward regulations in respect of amateur fishermen at present. I must confess that that was slightly misleading in that the draftsmen are currently preparing regulations in respect of fishing controls but the actual licensing component will not be included in those regulations.

1541 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Does he recall being reported in the NT News on 28 March as saying that the Alice Springs to Darwin railway feasibility study will be released in 2 or 3 weeks? In view of the answer given to me yesterday by the Minister of Transport and Works, can he tell the Assembly what has occurred to make his statement in March inoperative.

ANSWER

I am very pleased that the Leader of the Opposition has given me the opportunity to perhaps clear away some of the obscurity, doubts and persiflage that he has been attempting to raise about the government's attitude towards the completion of the Alice Springs Darwin rail link and also the doubt he has been casting on the Commonwealth government's attitude to the completion of this vital developmental, social and defence link for the Territory. Everybody knows that the completion of a rail link to Darwin must have a very beneficial effect on the cost of living in the Territory by reason of a fact that rail freight will be in competition with road transport. Obviously, moving freight in such bulk as only a railway can do must have a downward effect on freight costs and hence the cost of living in the Territory.

On information provided to me, I have indicated that this feasibility study would be ready on a number of occasions and, each time I have been given a date, I have been given reasons why the study cannot be ready by the particular date. At this time, I am not prepared to indicate when the feasibility study will be ready although I believe it will be ready in the near future. As far as I am concerned, as soon as it has been considered by Cabinet, and with the concurrence of the Commonwealth government or perhaps even without their concurrence, we will release it to the public because the public of the Territory are the people concerned with this. It is an extremely complex question and we have been going to great lengths of research to establish that this railway line will be economical at the time it can be constructed. It has certainly not been the Commonwealth's fault that the feasibility study has been late in coming out. It has been a result of indefatigable research and hard work on the part of the people representing the Northern Territory in this team which is putting together the feasibility study. I would think that every member of this House and every resident of the Northern Territory would want the Northern Territory government to do the best possible job in putting together this feasibility study. To my mind, there is absolutely no more important task being undertaken at the present time bar none by the Northern Territory government.

I can assure the House that, as soon as this feasibility study is ready, and I believe it will be ready soon, then it will be considered by Cabinet. It will be released then to the public provided the Commonwealth government has no major objection and I cannot see why they should. The Northern Territory government will then continue to go to bat for the completion of this length from Alice Springs to Darwin which was promised by the Commonwealth 70 years or more ago when the Territory was handed over from South Australia. I would ask all good Territorians and all people who have the interests of the Territory at heart to get behind us on this issue to see that maximum pressure from the Territory is applied to the Commonwealth government to expend an amount in the order of $400m. We are not talking about peanuts and we would hope that party political wrangles would not enter into this particular issue.

1542 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is the current situation regarding the proposed development of the Marrara sports complex?

ANSWER

Quite a lot of work has been done out at Marrara in the last 6 months by the city council and $100,000 has been made available to them by the Northern Territory government to commence design work in that area. However, I believe that we are running into problems with Marrara by virtue of the fact that Telecom has some cables there which may have to be relocated at substantial cost.

The council has indicated to the various sporting organisations in the Darwin area their intention to give them a piece of land out there for the development of their sport. Most of the organisations have been informed and have accepted the council's offer and I believe they are gradually working on development plans for their own sites. Until the next financial year, it will be a bit difficult to ascertain what the cost is going to be because the council is still doing a feasibility study in relation to what transport and works funding might be required.

1543 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has the decision now been made as to whether Northern Airlines will take over or be involved in the operation of the Northern Territory Aerial Medical Service?

ANSWER

The short answer to the question is no.

1544 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Conservation Commission given any thought to the allotting of certain areas of land under their control, where feral animals live in large numbers, to the instituting of a licensing procedure to genuine game shooters?

ANSWER

I have received information from the Conservation Commission which I am very pleased to represent in this Assembly. The commission has not considered it desirable to open any of its existing park and reserve areas to licensed game shooters to harvest feral or native animals because of conflict which would arise with existing park use and planning for future management. However, the commission does recognise that hunting is a legitimate recreational activity with substantial community support. The commission believes that game reserves, within which licensed hunting of both feral and certain native wildlife could take place, should be established. Such game reserves would not only provide areas of public land where shooters could legally hunt for game but the wildlife habitat in such areas would be carefully managed by the commission for the long-term benefit of not only the harvested species but for all other native plants and animals as well.

For the present, the commission has not identified or acquired any

specific areas for gazettal as game reserves but it is interested in moving in that direction.

1545 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

This question refers specifically to his circulated amendments to the Prisons Bill before the House at the moment. Amendment 178.35 deals with the passage of documents from a prisoner to his legal representative. I ask him if this particular amendment has been circulated to the Law Society or their opinions sought in any way?

ANSWER

I thought that the member would have waited until the committee stage of the bill before asking the question. However, I will state to her that I have not circulated that amendment to the Law Society or sought their opinions.

1546 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When is it expected that construction of the Bagot Road-Stuart Highway overpass will be commenced?

ANSWER

The tenders have been invited from selected qualified companies for this project. Those tenders will close in May and it is expected that construction will commence late in July-August.

1547 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can the minister tell me when will mandatory date-stamping of foodstuffs be introduced into the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The government is proceeding with the drafting of instructions and the preparation of regulations under the Weights and Measures of Packaged Goods Act along the lines of New South Wales regulations.

1548 Mr OLIVER to CHIEF MINISTER

Whilst I appreciate the subject of my question is properly a matter for the federal government, I ask the Chief Minister what assistance, if any, can his government render to those Northern Territory Vietnam veterans who may be affected by the defoliant Agent Orange?

ANSWER

I do appreciate that this question relates to a matter that arises out of the area of defence which is properly the responsibility of the federal government. No doubt, the rehabilitation of veterans who may be affected adversely as a result of their time in the armed services is also the responsibility of the federal government. However, these people are also citizens of the Northern Territory if indeed there are such people in the Territory. I understand there was a public meeting held some time ago of Vietnam war veterans to see whether there were any in the Territory who believed that they may have been adversely

affected by Agent Orange.

It is not for me to comment on the matter of Agent Orange because I believe that the federal government is going to carry out some sort of medical survey of every person who ever went to Vietnam. This survey will take quite a long time to complete. Whilst I appreciate that such a delay is very frustrating, it seems to me that a medical survey is far better than a judicial one because, as a lawyer, I do not really think that judges are the best assessors of how Agent Orange worked its effects on people's genes or otherwise. If people have been adversely affected and have established this in the Veterans Affairs Department, they should be eligible for a TPI pension. I believe my colleague, the Minister for Community Development, would have some role at least in relation to this matter because there are quite generous pensioner benefits available in the Territory and I do not think that these are restricted to any one class of pensioners. For example, I believe that one can obtain quite a substantial rebate of electricity accounts, water accounts, motor vehicle registration fees and the like. I believe the pensioner card entitles one to free passage on the NTA buses in Darwin. If these people have been able to establish eligibility as TPI pensioners, then presumably they would be eligible for those benefits.

1549 Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

There are many property owners in all of our electorates who have made a genuine effort to clear their properties of long grass and debris before the coming of the dry season. However, there are many properties still to be cleared. What is the government doing to make property owners clear their blocks of long grass and rubbish?

ANSWER

This matter is of some interest to me as I have always been concerned at the state of unkempt properties and indeed unkempt public space in Darwin. It has been of some concern that efforts by the Department of Lands and Housing serving notices on landowners requiring them, under the terms of the Darwin Town Area Leases Act, to maintain their properties have not been very successful. I understand that we have not proceeded to date to prosecute in this regard as there is some doubt as to whether such prosecutions would succeed. I believe the role of maintenance of a city and encouraging its citizens to maintain their properties belongs to local government and indeed local government I understand has the powers to execute those functions. The bylaws do provide the corporation with an ability to serve notice on landowners to clean up properties that are believed to be in a state that is possibly deleterious to the community and indeed even to move onto such properties and clean them up themselves and bill the landowner. I notice that the corporation has not undertaken that course of action itself. I undertake to ask them exactly why it has not taken that course of action and whether it will.

1550 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I am pleased to hear that the minister is concerned about umkempt open space in Darwin. My question refers to unkempt open space in Darwin, specifically to lot 4543 Town of Nightcliff in the Coconut Grove area which was used as a dump after the cyclone. I understand this is crown

land. Will the minister undertake to have this area of crown land cleared for the benefit of nearby residents in the Coconut Grove area?

ANSWER

This government has adopted the policy that, where honourable members provide me or the Department of Lands and Housing with information about lots of crown land which they believe should be cleaned up, I will undertake to have such land inspected and indeed cleaned up. There are funds available for this purpose and I am not sure if the honourable member for Fannie Bay has made representation through the normal administrative channels to have this work done or not. I have made a note of the number and I will pass it on to the department.

1551 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise if and when a resident magistrate will be appointed for Katherine?

ANSWER

This matter came to my attention when I was in Katherine recently. I was speaking to a court official there and also to the sergeant of police who was acting in place of the inspector who was absent on a training course. I forget how many days a week or a fortnight a magistrate visits Katherine from Darwin at present. I must say that it is not something that cheers one up to find that courts are doing more business rather than less. Perhaps that is an indication of the efficiency of the Northern Territory Police Force. I thought that Katherine should perhaps have a resident magistrate of its own who could also service and become familiar with communities in the Victoria River and Elsey areas where courts presently sit and where the government, with the full support of all members of this Assembly, is attempting to involve Aboriginal people in the administration of justice in their communities as much as possible.

It is impossible at the moment to say when a resident magistrate will be appointed to Katherine. It would probably be unfair of us to require any of the existing magistrates to move to Katherine as they were appointed on the basis that their appointment would be to either Darwin or Alice Springs. Perhaps one of them would be willing to live in Katherine. I cannot understand why anyone would not want to live in that fair city on the banks of that fine river but, having settled comfortably in Darwin or Alice Springs, the magistrates may not want to be taken out of their pursuits in those 2 places although it is permissable to transfer them under the conditions from one or other of those 2 places.

I am having the Solicitor-General undertake a survey as to whether the court work at Katherine would justify a permanent resident magistrate. If it does, then it will be possible in the not too far distant future to base a magistrate there because additional work is going to be undertaken on the Katherine Court House, if my memory serves me correctly, to upgrade it to accommodate not only Magistrates Courts but Supreme Courts. I think that it is the intention of the Supreme Court to sit in places such as Katherine in the future when work has been carried out such as the provision of jury rooms and other appendages required to enable a Supreme Court to go on circuit and bring the administration of justice closer to the communities that are involved.

Without making any firm commitment, it is certainly the governments view that, as and when it is warranted, magistrates should be based in centres such as Katherine, Tennant Creek and Gove. It may not be that any of the current magistrates can be based there unless they are willing to go but, as work builds up, obviously the workload in Darwin, especially when the act comes into operation to increase the jurisdiction of the Magistrates Court, it may well be necessary to employ more magistrates on the basis that they will take up residence in Katherine, Tennant Creek or wherever.

1552 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has consideration been given by his department to a suggestion that peak hour priority lanes be established on Bagot Road and the Stuart Highway for the carriage of buses and private vehicles carrying 3 or more persons and, if so, what is the result of this departmental consideration?

ANSWER

I am sure that the department over the years, in considering traffic in and out of the northern suburbs, has considered priority lanes. I have no recent advice as to why they have not suggested the institution of that particular program. Certainly, I was involved in looking at ways of having so many lanes out or creating extra lanes going in other directions, depending on the peak hour itself but it would not be possible with Bagot Road. If I can give the member more information, I will provide it for her.

1553 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Yesterday, he indicated that some regulation of the amateur barramundi fishing industry would be brought forward. Could he indicate the form of those regulations?

ANSWER

I have asked the Secretary of the Department of Primary Production to contact the member for Nightcliff and to discuss the regulations with her and also with the Amateur Fishermen's Association.

1554 Mr BALLANTYNE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can the Chief Minister inform the Assembly of the type and design of warning signs which will be used to inform the general public of the danger of crocodiles at known recreation areas?

ANSWER

As you know, the member for Nhulunbuy has been pursuing the matter of the crocodile menace at Nhulunbuy consistently throughout this session. Naturally, I have referred the matter to the Conservation Commission which has been swift to act and has come forward already with a warning sign which I believe should be intelligible not only to you, Mr Speaker, and honourable members of this House but also to other citizens of the Territory and indeed perhaps also crocodiles. This sign will be placed with the concurrence of the traditional owners and relevant authorities in areas around Nhulunbuy and elsewhere in the Territory where crocodiles may perhaps be a hazard to bathers. We could perhaps put one by the

bank of the Todd River just for the tourists.

I do believe seriously that there may have to be action taken to relocate some of the crocodiles in the immediate Nhulunbuy area because the numbers are very significantly on the increase I understand. The Conservation Commission will be looking at that. We have had many expressions of concern from that area. Only recently I received a letter from the Gove Amateur Lifesaving Club which is the only lifesaving club in the Northern Territory. That club is very concerned at risks to life as a result of the numbers of crocodiles that have been sighted by club members in the area. The Conservation Commission will be, despite the risk and expense, looking at relocating some of the crocodiles that do appear to exist in that area.

1555 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Was the minister at any time and in any capacity involved in negotiations to purchase Doctor's Gully from Karl Atkinson? If so, what were the results of those negotiations?

ANSWER

I do not believe that is a fit and proper question in respect of departmental negotiations for land. I believe the question should be placed on notice.

1556 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the government policy in regard to road signs relating to small local businesses, for example, in country and rural areas?

ANSWER

The road signs policy is about 4 pages. I have not got them in front of me to read them out to the Assembly although it may be very interested. Certainly, our proposal would be to upgrade the signs along the highways to international standards and to improve the signs for the benefit of the travelling public.

1557 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will the report on the alcohol conference which was held in Darwin in February be made available to honourable members at this sittings as the minister suggested in February would happen?

ANSWER

The short answer is yes. I asked my staff to deliver the report to the Clerk yesterday so that it could be placed on the table for the members. I am not sure whether it has come across but they will most certainly have it by tomorrow morning.

1558 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER

Could he tell me the government policy regarding rented caravans in backyards in city and town areas?

ANSWER

The government's policy is expressed in the provisions of the Darwin Town Plan which provides that a home owner can have a caravan in his yard in a built up area, controlled by a plan, but such a van is not for rental purposes at all. It can be occupied by the owner's family or visiting friends. As far as the honourable member's question is concerned, our policy towards rented backyard caravans is that this is simply not on. At the moment, the matter is covered by 2 acts. The Caravan Parks Act control, areas where 2 or more caravans are used. The Planning and Development Act control, matters relating to town planning and I believe this is the more appropriate vehicle for controlling the numbers of caravans in backyards. This matter has been of some concern to us. Fortunately, as a result of pressures that have been exerted over the past 12 months, there has been a considerable reduction in the numbers of backyard caravans and indeed the numbers of complaints from neighbours of persons who have a number of rented caravans in their backyards. And there were notices served on a number of people recently to remove further caravans. Some people have resisted fairly strongly in this regard and the government is proposing to take further action in regard to these people.

1560 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he inform this Assembly of the success or otherwise of the Aboriginal enrolment program being conducted through the Australian Electoral Office?

ANSWER

I do not have a progress report on the program at this stage but I can certainly enlighten honourable members on the steps that have been taken of which I am aware. I do not get a briefing from the officer in charge of electoral matters on a daily basis. In fact, I have not had a briefing from him for several weeks in relation to the matter of the Aboriginal voter enrolment program. I recall that 6 weeks ago a seminar was held at which I understand all adult educators from Aboriginal communities attended. They were briefed by officers of the Australian Electoral Office on Aboriginal voter education and enrolment. So far as I am aware, the Commonwealth Electoral Office has been receiving considerable numbers of applications for enrolment from rural areas. It would seem there could be some connection between the 2 matters.

1561 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

My question concerns concessional rates to pensioners. Is he aware that repatriation pensioners who receive the grand total of a $146.60 per fortnight have been advised they are not eligible for the concessions offered by his department because they are above the means test? Would he take immediate steps to remedy this?

ANSWER

I have already taken steps to rectify that. I hope to be making a full statement shortly.

1562 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the Howard Springs turnoff on the Stuart Highway be upgraded?

ANSWER

I have a feeling that I have answered that question before. The proposal is being considered for the 1980-81 capital works program. Unfortunately, I am unable to give the honourable member any projected tender target date.

1563 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

What progress has been made with allocating land for the siting of an explosives magazine in the Darwin area?

ANSWER

I do not have any information on the particular matter of providing land for a new explosive centre to hand. I would suggest the honourable member place the question on notice.

1564 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Some time ago, legislation relating to noise was passed in this Assembly.

It was assented to in December last year. Could the Chief Minister please inform the House when this legislation will come into force?

ANSWER

The Administrator was not well on Monday. I had to make a speech in his place. If he is able to sign the necessary instrument, I believe that that particular piece of legislation will come into operation tomorrow.

1565 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can the minister please tell me when we may expect results of a survey on a bus service for Alice Springs which was carried out in the latter part of last year?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the survey carried out at the latter part of last year. I am aware of a program we instituted in February of this year to ascertain the extent to which the bus service may be provided to residents of Alice Springs.

That survey has been fairly inconclusive and the consultants are designing now a further questionnaire to go back to those interested parties to see exactly to what extent the bus service should be provided.

1566 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Would he, as a matter of concern, review the parking problems relating to the pre-school at Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

I am certainly aware of a significant difficulty in Nhulunbuy pre-school relating to parents putting down and picking up their children. My understanding of the matter is that the location and the design of the school make the solution to the problem a rather complex one. Nonetheless, officers of the department are investigating methods of overcoming this problem. As soon as solutions are found, I am quite certain that the Minister for Transport and Works and I can work out a cash solution to the engineering problem.

1567 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he inform the Assembly of the progress on the consolidation of the criminal code?

ANSWER

If I might just take the time of the House for a couple of minutes. I am very pleased that the honourable Leader of the Opposition has asked me this question. Whilst the criminal code that is proposed could be called a consolidation of the criminal law, it is not only that. It will of necessity involve policy reviews in various areas of the criminal law. The first draft of the proposed code which, I frankly confess, was a rough draft was circulated to the branch after consultation with the lawyers, the law society and a tremendous amount of work by the Department of Law at some time last year. I recall informing members

that there were 4 large typewritten volumes of the first draft of the criminal code which took a tremendous amount of wading through. It is pretty tiring to read that sort of stuff without any relief. It took me some months to wade through it. I am quite certain I could have started again and probably done a much better job. The judges have recently passed back some comments on that first draft to the Solicitor-General who is handling the matter. I understand that a team in the Department of Law is at work on a second draft of the code at the present time. Presumably, when that draft is ready, we will be able to release it to the public by tabling it as a draft discussion document in this Assembly. It would then be available to the people most particularly interested in it, to ourselves as legislators and to the public. I hope that that will take place well within the next 4 months.

1568 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will a decision be made and announced as to the future use of the former Fannie Bay Gaol?

ANSWER

Soon, Mr Speaker.

1569 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

When is the rehabilitation program for electrical reticulation due for completion?

ANSWER

I assume that the honourable member is talking about the rehabilitation program right over the metropolitan area of Darwin and possibly the rehabilitation being done as a result of the cyclone. This is in its final stages of completion. I believe that the Port Darwin area is just about completed. There are a few minor things to be done in the Stuart Park area. The program for the whole of Darwin should be completed by the end of this year. I would just like to point out to the honourable member that, although the rehabilitation of the power system within the city area is just about complete, continuing maintenance will go on as long as people live here.

1570 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is he yet in a position to answer my question of Tuesday regarding the instructions given to me by prison officers as to what I could and could not discuss with a prisoner?

ANSWER

I had private discussions with the honourable member outside the House and, once again, I will ask her to give to me in writing the dates, the times and which officers refused to let her speak to a prisoner on anything other than of social content.

1571 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the policy of the Northern Territory Fire Brigade regarding the burning-off for a fee this dry in the rural area?

ANSWER

I have been advised that the fire brigade's policy is not to undertake burn-off work. In the past, the system of burning-off for a fee has proved economically unviable. Approximately 50% of the services provided resulted in bad debts or bad payers. In addition, this method of fire prevention cannot be preferred to manual clearing on small blocks or constructing fire-breaks for larger areas. Landowners in the Darwin rural area who are intending to burn-off should obtain permits and advice from the Chief Fire Officer.

1572 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the Commonwealth government yet signed the Commonwealth-Northern Territory Housing Agreement?

ANSWER

I believe the answer is yes. The Chief Minister signed it on behalf of the Northern Territory in my absence recently. Also, an agreement has been signed with the Commonwealth relating to the provision of special Aboriginal housing.

1573 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he say when the 12 months interim period, during which hostels formerly owned by Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services will be administered by that service prior to handing over to the Northern Territory government, be commenced?

ANSWER

Just to clarify the situation, the hostels throughout the Northern Territory are in fact owned by the Northern Territory government now. The honourable member for Fannie Bay referred to an agreement which we have entered into with Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services. I do not have with me the specific date that the contract with that group for an initial 12-month period expires. Further information will be provided if the honourable member cares to contact my office.

1574 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LAND and HOUSING

In consideration of the fact that on 3 previous occasions I requested that the terms of the Commonwealth-Northern Territory Housing Agreement be circulated to members of this House and, further, that the minister has agreed to do so and that both ministers have signed that agreement, why has he not yet informed members of the House of the terms of that agreement?

ANSWER

I will have the copy of the agreement forwarded to all members of the Assembly forthwith.

1575 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can the minister advise whether or not the Liquor Commission proposes to reduce the number of premises licensed to sell liquor in the Northern

Territory?

ANSWER

The Liquor Commission does not have any proposal to reduce the number of liquor outlets in the Territory although, in the decision handed down recently in Alice Springs relating to the granting of a licence to Coles Supermarket, the commissioner made it pretty clear that it would be requiring much more from applicants anywhere in the Northern Territory in the future. The commission is concerned with the number of store-keepers licences in our community. I do not think they are keen to see this particular activity continue. I believe that last year only 8 storekeepers licences were issued which was a very marked reduction on the previous rate. I do not know of any particular program that the commission has embarked upon but I am aware that they are starting to become a little more critical in their analyses of proposals for licences.

1576 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise me what the position is regarding the Contractors Village roads?

ANSWER

The sealing of the roads in the Contractors Village program has been approved. I understand that tenders will be called fairly soon to let a contract in late July. The cost of this program is in the order of some $140,000.

1577 Ms O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise when the broken pipes at the sewerage pumping station at Ludmilla will be repaired? He has reported that, at times of high tide, it results in foul odours.

ANSWER

I am unable to provide that information at the present time.

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